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Cheney Not Planning To Withdraw Troops From Europe
PM0304124989 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Apr 89 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "R. Cheney Interview"]

[Text] Washington, 31 Mar—U.S. Defense Secretary R. Cheney said Thursday that the United States has no plans to withdraw its 350,000-strong contingent of troops from Europe. In an interview for the AP, UPI, and REUTER news agencies the Pentagon chief stressed that the United States "has to discharge its obligations to Europe and these obligations have not changed."

Cheney admitted that the situation could change as a result of the Vienna talks on conventional armed forces and armaments in Europe. "But at the moment there is no reason for anyone, let alone a defense secretary, to start talking about withdrawing armed forces from Europe," he observed. Answering a similar question concerning U.S. forces in South Korea and Japan, the defense secretary said: "I do not intend this morning to make any announcements about the withdrawal of forces."

The Pentagon head stated that during the upcoming April meeting in Brussels of the defense ministers of the NATO countries he intends to discuss with his colleagues the question of modernizing tactical nuclear weapons. He admitted that this is a "delicate" matter for the FRG.

Cheney stressed that he firmly opposes the use of U.S. Armed Forces in the struggle against drug smuggling. "It is the Defense Department's task to defend the country," the Pentagon chief said. "Upholding the law is not its function, and we must treat with extreme caution proposals that the military be used in a law-enforcement role." I will oppose any proposals on the use of servicemen for purposes which, in my view, do not correspond to their tasks, the defense secretary stated, noting that the U.S. Armed Forces are already helping the relevant bodies to monitor the smuggling of drugs.

Purpose of U.S. Aerial War Games Evaluated
PM0304151589 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Mar 89 First Edition p 3

[Colonel A. Kamenskiy "Pertinent Remarks": "Sheep's Clothing... for B-52"]

[Text] Last year an exercise with the sonorous name of "Mighty Warrior" began a new series of war games by the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command [SAC]. Their chief purpose is to rehearse plans for the massive use of strategic aircraft carrying conventional weapons in remote theaters of war. Characterizing these exercises, SAC spokesman General Schuller emphasized that since the war in Vietnam U.S. strategic aviation has practically lost the skills of conducting combat operations involving the use of conventional weapons, and in this connection the need to update and refresh them has supposedly arisen.

The first attempt to verify plans for the massive use of strategic bombers with conventional weapons in Europe was made in the summer of 1988. The participation of aircraft of the 8th Air Force of the U.S. Air Force SAC in a conventional war in European theaters and simultaneously in a number of low-intensity conflicts in Latin America, the Near East, and the Middle East was rehearsed over the course of 2 weeks in accordance with the scenario of the Mighty Warrior exercise. Approximately 4,000 servicemen, 63 strategic bombers, and 54 tanker aircraft transferred to forward-based airfields in 14 operational regions participated in the exercise.

A characteristic feature of the exercise was the fact that in the initial phase of the exercises a considerable proportion of the aircraft of the 8th Air Army was dispersed to prearranged forward airfields in the continental United States which most fully accord with the nature of European theaters. A grouping of six tankers and seven bombers was created at Fairford Airbase (Britain) for the practical designation of bomber actions in Europe.

The SAC command plans to hold a larger-scale exercise this spring in the Pacific zone with the code name of "Giant Warrior." It is proposed to involve primarily air subunits of the 15th Air Force in the exercise.

What has made the Pentagon think of switching nuclear-capable strategic bombers to conventional weapons? U.S. military specialists themselves give the answer to this question. The same Gen Schuller declared, in particular, that the Pentagon leadership is nurturing plans to create a new generation of highly accurate long-range air armaments which can be used without entering the zone of active opposition from enemy air defense systems. Thanks to high accuracy in hitting the target, the effectiveness of their use against small, highly defended targets (intercontinental ballistic missile silo launchers, command posts, state and military control facilities, and others) is commensurate with the effectiveness of low-yield nuclear weapons. Schuller numbered among such air armaments systems the air-to-surface missiles of the Tacit Rainbow and Hev Nep [name as transliterated] type, which are being developed in the United States, as well as the new long-range cruise missile with a conventional warhead being developed under the ATACCM [expansion unknown] program. It is proposed to use as carriers of these weapons systems B-52 aircraft, which it is planned to switch to so-called "nuclear-free status" as the B-1B bombers are reequipped for air-launched cruise missiles and advanced cruise missiles.

At present the U.S. Air Force SAC has already announced the withdrawal of 68 B-52 strategic bombers of the "Golf" version from the nuclear force, although the technical possibility of mounting nuclear weapons on them has been preserved. According to the American scheme, the nuclear-free status of the B-52 bombers will reliably protect them from the effect of the treaty on the limitation of strategic nuclear arms, if it is signed. As a result, after the program to modernize the strategic offensive forces is complete, the

United States reckons on having up to 230 modern nuclear-capable B-1B and B-2 bombers in the air component by the mid-nineties, as well as preserving as many as possible B-52 bombers, which will have the potential for delivering nuclear means.

Disarmament by 'Socialist Countries' Praised

OW0404013589 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Alekseyev commentary—from "Current Events and Commentaries" program]

[Text] Listeners and friends, the unilateral disarmament and reduction of defense expenditures by socialist countries vividly show their loyal support for the cause of peace. Newspapers and radio and television stations in many countries have commented on this. In this connection, station observer Alekseyev writes:

People used to be skeptical about the so-called military threat from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. However, this allegation concocted by the West has paid handsome dividends to its concocters, who often call for expansion of nuclear and conventional armaments under the excuse that the USSR had all kinds of military plans.

The situation today is different. The U.S. weekly, TIME, recently said: Defense of these allegations has become increasingly untenable. Following the earthshaking breakthrough in nuclear disarmament and the signing of the INF Treaty, the USSR has decided to reduce its armed forces and military expenditure. This further weakens the bastion of the strong-arms supporters in the West.

It is true that, during the 1989-90 period, the USSR will cut its armed forces by 500,000 officers and men; destroy 10,000 tanks, 8,500 artillery systems, and 820 fighter planes; and will cut its military budget by 14.2 percent. What should be particularly noted is that, of the 500,000 officers and men to be cut, 200,000 are stationed in the eastern part of the USSR. Soviet armed forces garrisoned in Mongolia will be reduced by 75 percent. Other socialist countries have taken similar measures. This has convincingly demonstrated their goodwill. Mongolia (?and) Democratic Korea have cut their armed forces by 100,000 men. Of course, the measures taken by China are of enormous significance. Everyone knows that China has cut its armed forces by 1 million men. The on-going NPC [National People's Congress] session in Beijing has also discussed issues concerning cutting the nation's defense expenditure. It is reported that China will cut its military expenditure by 6 percent.

As can be seen from these facts, socialist countries have once again demonstrated that they love peace. The mass media of many countries have stressed that this has significantly affected the world climate and it is conducive to the further improvement of the world situation.

Perfilyev Gives Foreign Ministry Briefing 3 Apr

Updates Afghanistan Situation

LD0304161189 Moscow TASS in English 1534 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—The attempts of the rebels and Pakistani malishas to take hold of the initiative in the Jalalabad operation were not successful: Afghan warplanes inflicted considerable damage on the enemy, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said at a briefing here on Monday. The enemy loses daily hundreds of people in killed and wounded.

The rebels who are continually receiving large amounts of ammunition from Pakistan and are given direct fire support by the 11th and 18th Pakistani Infantry Divisions fire daily thousands of shells and mines at the positions of government troops, security posts and residential areas of Jalalabad.

On April 2, after the massive shelling of positions of the government troops the rebels and Pakistani malishas tried to launch an offensive in three directions. The attempt ended in failure, the same as previous ones. The attacking forces lost some 250 men in killed and wounded, as well as six ammunition depots.

The situation near Jalalabad continues to be extremely tense, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed. The rebels and Pakistani malishas are regrouping forces and bringing closer the reserves for launching another major offensive on the eve of the coming Muslim holiday of Ramadan.

In Afghan refugee camps located in Pakistan, Afghan youths are being forcibly enlisted by officers of Pakistani secret services and malishas to take part in the Jalalabad fighting. Seeking to avoid the forcible call-up, they try to move deep into Pakistani territory. However, as a rule, they are detained by the Pakistani police and are sent back to the camps. Massive protest actions were held late in March in the refugee camps of Kacha-Galai, Darsamad and Nasir Bag against the forcible sending of young Afghans to the front.

Criticizes Pakistani Nuclear Policy

LD0304145989 Moscow TASS in English 1445 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—There are all grounds to believe that Pakistan has come very close to making a bid for membership in the "nuclear club", Vadim Perfilyev, first deputy chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing here today. This is borne out by statements of Pakistani officials and by publications in the world press. One of the latest such publications appeared recently in the Indian newspaper "THE TIMES OF INDIA". It speaks, among other things, about Islamabad being in possession of 100 kg of highly enriched uranium enough to produce between 4 to 6 atom bombs.

Pakistan also has its own means for the delivery of nuclear warheads, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman went on to say. That the country has tested two types of rockets with a range of 80 and 300 km.

"Acquisition by Pakistan of nuclear weapons would in no way enhance security and confidence between the countries of the Asia-Pacific region or improve the military-political situation in that part of the world and globally", Vadim Perfilyev said. "Islamabad's nuclear plans enter into a stark contradiction with the commitment assumed by the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], which includes Pakistan, to prevent the appearance of nuclear weapons in southern Asia, and undermine international efforts to strengthen the regime [words indistinct] nuclear weapons.

Welcomes UK Mideast Conference Stand

LD0304153189 Moscow TASS in English 1505 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—"We point out with satisfaction that the Soviet Union's course to the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East is coming closer to the stand assumed by the British leaders", Vadim Perfilyev, first deputy head of the Information Directorate of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing here on Monday [3 April].

British representatives have actively supported of late the convocation of the conference as the only and the most effective way to the Middle East settlement. Specifically, Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, said during his visit to Bahrain that Britain supported the idea of convening the conference and would take practical steps for its putting into practice, Perfilyev said.

"We welcome Britain's stand and regard it as a major contribution to the settlement of the Middle East situation", the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out.

Discusses Palestinians, Namibians

LD0304152789 Moscow TASS in English 1504 GMT 3 Apr 89

["Soviet Foreign Ministry Briefing—Roundup"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—The first Soviet-Irish summit held at Shannon Airport on Sunday [2 April] has confirmed the two countries' ample identity of views on major world and European issues, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said at a briefing in Moscow today.

Vadim Perfilyev, first deputy head of the ministry's Information Directorate, pointed to the "existence of a good political basis for Soviet-Irish dialogue on all-European matters."

The sides "were unanimous that there is a good basis for transition to a new, more dynamic stage in the entire complex of Soviet-Irish relations," the spokesman said.

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh received today the French ambassador to Moscow, Yves Pagniez.

It was stressed during their conversation, Perfilyev said, that "the USSR and France favour the cessation of armed clashes in Lebanon and call on all sides to display maximum restraint and apply effort to settle the crisis by political means with a view to preserving Lebanon as a united, territorially integral and independent state."

The Soviet Union notes with satisfaction, the ministry spokesman observed, that "our course towards convening an international Middle East conference is approaching the stance of Great Britain."

British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe declared during his visit to Bahrain that Britain supports the idea of such a conference and will undertake efforts to bring it about.

Asked about the Soviet Union's attitude to the PLO decision to appoint Yasir 'Arafat president of the Palestinian state, Perfilyev replied:

"We have approved of the decision of the Palestine National Council's 19th session to proclaim a Palestinian state and have clearly stated our recognition of the proclamation of that state.

Correspondingly, we hold that the Palestinians themselves have the right to decide the question of the procedure of electing their leaders."

On claims that Namibian liberation fighters attacked South African troops, Perfilyev expressed the Soviet side's concern over the emergence of this untrue information.

He emphasised that "the main thing is to prevent the undermining of the mechanism, started with such difficulties, of settling the Namibian situation with U.N. participation and remove any threat to the entire settlement process."

It is obvious that the demand for the unconditional and complete observance of the agreements by all parties to the conflict is acquiring increasingly great necessity in the current situation, he added.

Cites Exchange of Specialists

LD0304161589 Moscow TASS in English 1513 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—U.S. scholars and diplomats will be granted access to academic institutions of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, while Soviet diplomats—to some U.S. universities. As Vadim Perfilyev, first deputy chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, said here today, this is provided for by a working document agreed upon between Soviet Foreign Ministry officials and the leadership of the U.S. Association of Professional Schools of International Relations.

There is also a provision for holding joint seminars and conferences and for assistance in gaining access to respective archives. Discussions on these matters will be continued with the participation of officials from the USSR Foreign Ministry, the U.S. State Department and USIA.

"A practical cooperation in the matter of training specialists in international affairs has already begun," Vadim Perfilyev said. "Between March 27 and April 1 the diplomatic academy of the USSR Foreign Ministry hosted a joint Soviet-American seminar on the methodology of diplomatic talks, attended by scholars from Harvard University. During their theoretical and practical studies the Soviet and American specialists centered on the role and the place of negotiations in solving acute international problems. This is a good example of imaginative interaction in the spirit of the new political thinking."

Western Reaction to 26 Mar Elections Cited

PM0304112989 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 89 Second Edition p 4

[V. Chernyshev article under the rubric "Dialogue: Reader Asks, Ponders": "The West on Our Elections"; first paragraph is PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] To judge from calls to the editorial office, many readers are interested in the reaction of the foreign mass media to our elections. The essence of the questions boils down to the following: The comments published in our country speak of great interest in this event abroad and of a positive attitude toward it. But has the whole Western press really perceived the elections with unequivocal delight?

As regards criticisms, I will begin with the statement made by Margaret Tutwiler, an official spokesman for the U.S. State Department:

"There is no doubt," she said at a meeting with journalists, "that the elections were neither free nor democratic by Western standards."

"What did they lack then?" M. Tutwiler was asked.

"Freedom and democracy in keeping with our standards," she replied.

And that was all. Only "as in our country"—and nothing else. Free and democratic means only American-style.

To be fair, it has to be said that on the whole Western commentators emphasize precisely the democratic nature of the elections. "Everything was as it should be in democratic elections," West Germany's SUEDWEST-PRESSE believes. At the same time, however, France's LE MONDE also points to the imperfect nature of the electoral law, which did not everywhere ensure multiple candidates. In the opinion of the CHICAGO TRIBUNE, the process of nominating and approving candidacies was complex and questionable and, compared with Western examples, the election posters were "crude." A number of newspapers believe that the one-third of deputies elected from public organizations under the law were thereby saved from competition in the electoral wards where different results might have awaited some of the candidates.

Western newspapers, which are accustomed to printing extensive reportages and interviews with the winners the very next day after an election, point out in amazement that the Soviet central press has published the results from the provinces extremely sparingly and in "homeopathic doses," although it was known as early as the late evening of voting day whether or not the "top figures" in the republics and oblasts had been elected. Western observers were also surprised that the election results in Leningrad were announced very belatedly. Is this not connected, they ask, with the fact that the Leningrad leaders suffered defeat in the election?

Certain press organs try to present the fact that a number of local party leaders failed to receive support as a serious warning to the CPSU. But the majority point out that the party demonstrated its authority. France's LE PARISIEN writes that the elections were a triumph of restructuring and a defeat for "apparatchiks."

While taking different approaches to the election results, foreign mass media on the whole almost unanimously consider them an important political event in the life of the Soviet Union and a decisive step on the way to society's democratization. In the opinion of Britain's THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, for example, historians can consider 26 March this year a turning point of no less importance than the 1917 dates which shook the world.

*** Foreign Ministry Officials Discuss Emigration**
18000689 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY No 12, 25-31 Mar 89 p 7

[Report by D. Makarov on USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs press conference: "Departure. At the Present Time About 150,000 Soviet Citizens Live Abroad"]

[Text] It is written in the Vienna understandings, signed in January of this year by all of the European states, the U.S., and Canada: "Participating states will fully respect the right of each person...to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his own country."

A press conference in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center was devoted to the realization of this right.

[Question] Is it true that in the presence of a call or an invitation from foreign friends or relatives a citizen of the USSR must, in addition to everything else, get the approval of the management of the enterprise or establishment in which he works?

[Yu. Reshetov, chief of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights] Until recently, in the presence of a call from abroad, a citizen of the USSR was obliged to obtain a detailed reference from the management of the enterprise where he worked. Now, such references are not required in order to depart in response to an invitation. Only a statement is necessary that work responsibilities of the person in question do not interfere with the trip abroad at a given time.

It should not be forgotten, however, that limitations are allowed by international law that are associated with considerations of state security. Knowledge of state secrets can serve as such an obstacle for departure, and the Vienna understandings do not remove it. The fact that a given citizen does not possess such knowledge, consequently, that there are no obstacles to departure, must be confirmed by his place of work.

[Question] Why is it that in other countries, for example in the U.S., that for a trip abroad, no question is asked about the knowledge of state or military secrets?

[Reshetov] I do not agree with the statement that secrecy is regulated only in the USSR and that it is not regulated in the U.S.

I doubt that the respected American journalists will start to deny that the U.S. in a very strict way exercises control over the trips of persons who work in enterprises whose activity represents a subject of concern of the authorities from the point of view of state security. If a U.S. citizen who works in such an enterprise goes to the "wrong" country during his leave of absence, it is very likely that he will not continue work in the secret enterprise.

[Question] Why is the number of Soviet persons desiring to emigrate from the USSR continuously growing despite the development of the process of perestroyka?

[Reshetov] The Soviet state, like any other state, does not encourage emigration. All countries of the world community take measures so that their citizens remain at home to work.

At the same time, the question of going abroad must be regulated strictly according to the pact on human rights and the Helsinki and Vienna understandings. We are adopting measures to improve our legislation on departure in order to bring it into conformity with international understandings.

Actually, the growth in emigration in the last 2 years is rather substantial. More than 100,000 persons left the USSR in 1988. But this growth is observed in comparison with the preceding period when limitations on departure were very strict. We have no data that the number of persons desiring to depart in the near future will grow significantly. And, finally, if we take the statistics for other countries, including Western countries, then in certain years such a growth in departures is nothing extraordinary.

We are convinced that the patriotic feelings of our citizens will be strengthened along with the course of perestroyka. But we also include in the concept of "perestroyka" an assurance of maximally favorable conditions for each nationality in satisifying its cultural, linguistic, and religious needs, independent of whether the representatives of a given nationality live in one area or whether they are scattered throughout the Soviet Union.

[V. Auman, executive in the CPSU Central Committee apparatus] I would like to add to what Yuriy Aleksandrovich said that the growth in emigration is also observed owing to the citizens of German nationality. This, by the way, is evidence of the fact that, aside from secrecy, no limitations now exist in the USSR.

However, we are not dramatizing the situation. A lot is being done now to eliminate the aftereffects of the Stalinist repressions with respect to the German people. The attitude has changed not only toward the Orthodox, but also to the Catholic and Protestant churches.

[Question] According to estimates of West German specialists, Soviet Germans who leave for permanent residency in the FRG need a period of adaptation of 2-3 generations in order to become full-fledged West German citizens. Do you not think in this connection that the restoration of the Republic of Volga Germans would be a more successful form of resolving this question?

[Auman] Actually, Soviet Germans are a product of the formation of a Soviet way of life. Three hundred years of German residence in Russia, of which 70 years are under Soviet authority, could not help but have an effect on their psychology, behavior and way of thinking. Of course, they have more in common with any other nation living in the USSR then with Germans in the FRG or even the GDR. It is not possible, however, to snatch the German problem from the entire complex of international relations in the USSR. Intense preparation is now under way for the plenum on the national problem. Different versions of its resolution are being discussed, including the possibility of recreating national rayons, national rural soviets, and possibly, autonomous oblasts and republics, including those that are German.

The movement to restore German autonomy is very great. I can only say that the German problem is being studied intently at the present time in the leading Soviet and party organs.

[Question] How reliable is the information that persons who depart for Israel and who receive Israeli citizenship are automatically deprived of Soviet citizenship? In departing for other countries, for example the U.S., Soviet citizenship can be retained along with the new American citizenship. If this is the case, then why?

[Reshetov] In fact, in a departure on an Israeli visa, the loss of Soviet citizenship does occur. Such a regulation of this question was adopted in the 1960's. This was influenced by an attempt to take into account the geopolitical feature associated with the fact that Soviet citizens who on coming to Israel could be fighting the very next day after their arrival, with weapons in their hands, against the Arab people, which we could not allow. But, on the other hand, the resolution of this question was influenced by the psychology of stagnation and an acute reaction to the very fact of leaving the USSR, which we now view more calmly and in a more civilized way.

[Question] About 2 months have passed from the day of the signing of the Vienna understandings. How is the process of bringing Soviet legislation into conformity with them progressing?

[Reshetov] Literally the second day after the signing of the understandings, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo held a meeting at which specific departments were charged with bringing Soviet legislation into conformity with the documents signed in Vienna.

The periods of secrecy have to be fixed strictly, and they must be brought to the attention of a citizen when he comes to work that is associated with military or state secrets, so that both parties—the employer and the employee—thoroughly understand their legal rights and obligations.

Another question that is being discussed in the preparation of new legislative acts concerns the opportunity for all Soviet citizens to go abroad to work.

CSSR, GDR Favor Expanded UN Fact-Finding Role

LD0404012889 Moscow TASS in English 0117 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] New York April 4 TASS—Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic have called for fully using and expanding U.N. fact-finding capabilities, saying that this would assist U.N. activities to maintain international peace and security and prevent disputes among nations or facilitate their peaceful settlement.

The call came in a document they submitted to a current session of the special committee on the Charter of the U.N. and the strengthening of the role of the organisation.

The two countries suggested that the Security Council, the General Assembly or the U.N. secretary-general maintain vigorous fact-finding activity, sending various missions, civilian or military, to areas where it is essential to clarify the situation.

The U.N. secretary-general or his representatives, the presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly, and the leaders of the Nonaligned Movement or regional organisations could also act as special envoys.

Such missions, the document said, should be sent with the agreement of countries to be visited by them. But these countries, for their part, should not hamper comprehensive and independent fact-finding or interfere in the work of the U.N. representatives and should, on the contrary, give them essential help

A group of Western countries in a document submitted on the same issue said, among other things, that states should not refuse permission to U.N. missions to enter their territory and should give them immediate access to areas they want to go to.

The session began studying these documents.

Amnesty International Head Comments on Visit

PM0404084189 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Mar 89 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent G. Charodeyev report on interview with Amnesty International Secretary General Ian Martin: "'Amnesty International' in Moscow"]

[Text] For the first time ever, representatives of the leadership of the influential international nongovernmental organization "Amnesty International" are in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute.

The organization now has more than 700,000 members in 150 states all over the world. Its headquarters are in London. We must remember that, until recently, "Amnesty International" was not recognized by our country in any form, and newspapers even described it as "a branch of the Western special services." However, on the 30th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Amnesty International" was awarded the UN Human Rights Prize "for outstanding success in the field of human rights," and in 1977 it received the Nobel Peace Prize "for strengthening freedom and justice and, consequently, peace on earth." It is "the most effective organization in the field of human rights"—that is the opinion of UN Secretary General J. Perez de Cuellar....

Ian Martin, secretary general of "Amnesty International," talked to your IZVESTIYA correspondent about the aims of the visit to the Soviet Union:

[Martin] All people, irrespective of their origins and beliefs, are endowed with human rights from birth. You would have thought that no one should violate these rights. However, this does often happen in real life. Experience shows that the governments of virtually every country try to deprive people of their freedom or silence them when they try to work for human rights. These repressions, coupled with other violations in the sphere of legal protection, often create an atmosphere of fear in which further social development becomes almost impossible.

We have come to Moscow to obtain firsthand information—from scientists, practical workers, and representatives of the Soviet public—on how the USSR is observing the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We have seen how citizens' debates on the draft new criminal legislation are developing here. We constantly discuss at various meetings the legislative acts and legal norms operating in the Soviet Union and their consonance with international standards of democracy and humanism.

[Charodeyev] And what are your first impressions?

[Martin] The human rights situation has recently improved considerably in your country. This applies particularly to the release from jail of many prisoners of conscience—people imprisoned because of their beliefs, nationality, or religion. We have been particularly excited by the elections of people's deputies. Candidates touched on human rights in their programs and the voters also gave them corresponding instructions. We have not had much time to examine all this closely—we have visited a number of ministries, hospitals, and public committees—but we know that the authorities are not putting obstacles in the way of election rallies and demonstrations. Although, the elections themselves are the internal affair of Soviet citizens. "Amnesty" does not support any governments or political systems and does not oppose them. We are an independent, impartial organization.

Nevertheless, I would like to mention something of particular concern to us. "Amnesty" is opposed to any cases of the death penalty being used. But in Moscow we have been given two figures: the number of people sentenced to the supreme penalty and the number executed. In our opinion, there are too many "people on death row" in the Soviet Union. This is where the opinion of the Soviet public can make a humane contribution. [Martin ends]

...The visit is not yet over and it is too early to sum up the results. But we can confidently say that, by overcoming prejudice in our attitude to one another, we have begun an open, honest dialogue.

Brussels Conference Held on East-West Relations

LD0304104289 Moscow TASS in English 1034 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Brussels April 3 TASS—By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shishkov:

"The Nineties: Decisive Changes"—This was the subject of an international conference called here jointly by the American Centre for Strategic and International Studies and the Belgian Centre for European Policy Studies. It was attended by prominent public leaders, economists and politicians, representatives of West European, American, Canadian and Japanese business circles. They discussed changes now occurring in the world, problems confronting the West in this connection. The conference concentrated its attention on East-West relations, prospects of arms control, development of world trade.

Manfred Woerner, the NATO general secretary, told the conference that opportunities had appeared to go over from our unstable world of today to a new world order, based on more solid foundations. This can be achieved only by reshaping East-West relations so as to replace ideological and military confrontation by cooperation and peaceful competition.

The West, just as the East, he noted, is interested in expanding cooperation, particularly in such spheres as protection of the environment, development of a resources saving power industry.

The NATO general secretary noted that the Soviet Union's unilateral reduction of armed forces, as well as its constructive approach to talks on conventional armaments in Europe, were quite reassuring. Nevertheless, he stated at the same time that there were no sufficient indications that the Soviet Union was prepared to forfeit fully the balance of forces which is now in its favour.

Manfred Woerner again stressed that NATO's tactical nuclear forces should be left intact, since, as he claimed, they are "the cornerstone of security". He said that NATO's stabilising role should be based on dependable defences, which could serve as a deterrent only if they included nuclear forces. He also stressed the need of a strong Western Europe, which would contribute effectively to the defence of the North Atlantic alliance.

The conference was also addressed by Leo Tindemans, the Belgian foreign minister, Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former national security adviser to the U.S. President, Frans Andreissen, deputy chairman of the European Communities Commission, and other politicians.

The reports of working panels, formed to study problems on the conference's agenda, which were circulated here after the closing session, note the importance of the changes now taking place in East-West relations, stress that the Western states should work out a common stand in this connection. Lack of a concerted NATO approach, vagueness of the alignment's tasks and friction among the allies could impair public support to NATO, the documents point out.

Italian, Japanese Officials Meet in Tokyo

Foreign Ministers Hold Talks

LD0304084689 Moscow TASS in English 0827 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo April 3 TASS—Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti has greeted Soviet perestroyka and Soviet measures to cut troops and armaments.

At a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Sosuke Uno here on Monday [3 April] Giulio Andreotti said that economic reforms in the USSR and reduction of military expenditures would help improve relations between the Soviet Union and Western countries.

The Japanese foreign minister favourably assessed the normalisation of relations between the USSR and the People's Republic of China, pointing to its favourable influence on peace and stability in Asia.

Discussing regional conflicts, Sosuke Uno declared for an early settlement of the Kampuchean problem. He called upon Italy to promote a peace settlement in the Middle East. Andreotti, on his part, called for Japan's more active participation in settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict. The two sides reaffirmed readiness to cooperation with the United Nations organisation.

Guilio Andreotti is accompanying Italy's chairman of the Council of Ministers Ciriaco De Mita, now visiting Japan, who is to meet Prime Minister Noburu Takeshita on Monday.

Prime Ministers Meet

LD0404012289 Moscow TASS in English 0116 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo April 4 TASS—By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov: Italian head of government Ciriaco de Mita, expressing content with fast developing East-West contacts, said that this dialogue has made faster progress than expected by many Western countries.

Speaking during talks with Japanese opposite number Noboru Takeshita on Monday, he also said that he hopes for the success of Soviet perestroyka.

The Japanese premier, for his part, spoke positively of the process of normalising Soviet-Chinese relations. A Soviet-Chinese rapprochement, he said, will help greater stability in the Asian region.

Commenting on regional conflicts, Takeshita urged Italy to play a more active role in bringing about a settlement concerning Kampuchea.

Both leaders expressed the intention to discuss such issues as the foreign debt of developing nations, North-South relations and environmental protection in detail at next summer's regular summit of the leading capitalist countries in Paris.

De Mita and Takeshita paid much attention to discussing bilateral relations and agreed to strengthen commercial and economic ties in accordance with their countries' role in the world economy.

The Italian head of government said in this connection that Japanese worries over the emergence of another closed group following the creation of a single European market in 1992 are unfounded.

He is staying in Japan on an official five-day visit until April 6.

Rationale Behind Free Economic Zones Explained

PM0404091189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 89 Second Edition p 4

[Correspondent M. Kostikov report under the rubric "Dialogue: The Reader Asks, Ponders": "'Special Zones' From Two Viewpoints"; first four paragraphs are letters from readers]

[Text] "The idea of creating 'free zones' was praised in 'Dialogue' for 12 February under the heading 'Vain Fears.' I believe that a policy of creating such zones may be suitable for those states that do not have material resources or their own scientific and technical base. But all this exists in our country. We have no need to kowtow to imperialists and appeal for help. We have no need to make humiliating concessions and hand out our sacred land.

"Give Soviet people the same conditions as you want to create for foreign capitalists, and they will do everything no worse than foreign businessmen. I. Filinov, participant in the Great Patriotic War. Chalchany Settlement, Amur Oblast."

"I fully agree with the article 'Vain Fears.'

"After the Great Patriotic War I lived in the Far East and saw both beauty and disorder. I still believed then that the time would come when friendship among the peoples would create favorable conditions to attract foreign capital, equipment, and manpower so as to turn this wild and sparsely populated region into one of the most attractive places on the planet. Joint enterprise zones do not mean selling off our land but a businesslike approach to opening it up. I. Kiselevskiy, participant in the Great Patriotic War. Kiev."

In order to give the readers a specific reply, PRAVDA correspondent M. Kostikov asked S. Lavrov, deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry International Economic Relations Administration, to say what the "free zone" in the northwest, the plan for which is now being drawn up, will be like. It is a question of a region adjacent to the Soviet-Finnish border, near the city of Vyborg.

"The zone's territory is 250 square km," my interlocutor explained. "And, as is known, it is far from being an economically backward region. The presence of a large industrial base and the high scientific potential are precisely what attract foreign partners to it. This opens up the prospect of the joint and, thus, accelerated startup of production of high-technology output.

"Our enterprises—and PRAVDA readers must have no doubts about this—certainly will not have their rights infringed compared with foreign ones. Parity, equality of opportunities, and mutual interest are precisely what must serve the development of such promising sectors as electronics, laser technology, biotechnology, and instrument making in the 'free zone.'

"This project is not only advantageous for the country as a whole. It is also closely connected with the regional plan for the economic and social development of our northwest. We estimate, incidentally, that spending by the country—the 'zone's master'—on opening it up and providing public services and amenities will be recouped in approximately 10 years.

"Readers are right to point out that the terms on which currency and financial operations or, say, taxation and customs control are implemented in the 'free zone' will prove far more favorable than those with respect to current joint ventures. But what can you do if only such benefits can protect the zone from unsolved problems of our economy like the inconvertibility of the Soviet ruble?

"In creating such a 'free zone'," S. Lavrov pointed out, "the USSR does not sell a single inch of Soviet land to foreigners. It is leased. An appropriate payment is determined for land use and resources. In addition, the lessee will be obliged to show concern for the region's ecological state and sociocultural development.

"Through the 'free economic zone' in the northwest the Soviet Union will be able to realize a considerable proportion of its huge stock of technological developments, which is still 'lying on the shelves' because of the inertia of our economic mechanism. We will begin producing high-technology output both independently and in conjunction with foreign firms."

Academician Cited on Cooperation With GATT, IMF

LD0304164889 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1504 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Moscow, 3 Apr (TASS)—Famous economists, financiers, and representatives of business circles of socialist and capitalist countries are planing to draft a

joint report, in order to submit an analysis and recommendations on improving international economic relations at the meeting with a broad range of representatives in October of this year in Frankfurt. This was announced at a news conference held here today by members of a working group on problems of international economic changes and questions of economic security between East and West. They spent 4 days conferring in Moscow.

The working group unites more than 80 leading scientists and experts from the USSR, United States, Japan, China, and European countries. "We are capable of drafting quite high-class proposals, so they will be listened to by the governments and parliaments of major economic powers," the famous Soviet economist Academician Abel Aganbegyan, who took part in the work of the group, declared.

Answering journalists' questions, the scientist said that the USSR is prepared for active cooperation with all international financial and commercial organisations. "Above all, Soviet experts would like to take part in the work of experts of GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)," he noted. "Next year the USSR is planning to introduce customs tariffs taking into account the requirements of that organization." The USSR is also ready for cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in research and expertise and for talks on conditions for joining those organizations.

In this connection, John Morz, president of the American Institute for East-West Security Studies, pointed out that the USSR's joining the international financial and commercial institutes would evidently be preceded by a period of shaping mutual trust which might take some 5 years. Speaking about the economic reforms in the socialist countries, John Morz said that in combination with the rapid changes in the world economy, they are helping the socialist states to join as soon as possible in the world economic process.

United States & Canada

Reportage on Visit of Egypt's Mubarak to U.S.

Visit Previewed

PM0304131189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 89 First Edition pp 1,5

[Vladimir Belyakov dispatch under the rubric "Abroad. Correspondent Comments": "Talks in Washington"]

[Text] Cairo, 2 Apr—Egyptian President H. Mubarak has flown to Washington, where he will meet with U.S. President G. Bush Monday. This will be the first in a series of scheduled April meetings between the U.S. leader and the leaders of the Near East states. Israeli Prime Minister Y. Shamir will arrive in the U.S. capital 3 days after the Egyptian president, and a visit by King Husayn of Jordan is scheduled for 19 April.

The main problem that will be discussed in Washington is how to get the Near East settlement process moving. In Egypt's opinion—an opinion not shared by the United States—there should be thorough preparations for convening an international peace conference on the Near East under UN auspices involving the five permanent members of the Security Council and all interested parties, including the PLO, on an equal footing.

Other Arab states are also of this opinion. This was once again demonstrated by the summit talks held last week in Egypt. A tripartite meeting between H. Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, and Y. 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, took place first in the city of Ismailia. Then King Fahd of Saudi Arabia paid an official visit to Egypt. Thus, the Egyptian leader will not be upholding only the standpoint of his country in Washington.

Questions of bilateral relations, primarily economic relations, will also hold a significant place at the U.S.-Egyptian summit. A new problem recently joined the chronic problem of Egypt's military debt to the United States, a debt which exceeds $4.5 billion—namely, the U.S. Administration has frozen $230 million in financial aid to Egypt. Washington justifies this step by the inadequacy of Cairo's economic reforms. The U.S. decision has come at a difficult time for Egyptians, when they are trying to convince the IMF, where the United States once again plays first fiddle, to defer payment of the debt. If the IMF does not agree to this in the near future, Egypt may be refused more credit as of July.

Another problem has arisen quite unexpectedly—U.S. accusations against Egypt of building an enterprise in Abu Zabal producing poisonous gases. Egypt's president has categorically denied these accusations.

In short, as America's NEWSWEEK magazine points out, H. Mubarak's Transatlantic trip is "more than just a courtesy call." Its results will undoubtedly affect the development of both the Near East situation and U.S.-Egyptian relations.

Bush, Mubarak Hold Talks

LD0404023989 Moscow TASS in English 0222 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Washington April 4 TASS—Correspondent Andrey Fedyashin:

U.S. President George Bush and his Egyptian counterpart Husni Mubarak ended talks in the White House Monday.

Judging by their comments at a ceremony after the meeting, they agreed on the expediency of an international conference on the Middle East and the need for Israel to discontinue its occupation of the West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

Bush acknowledged that a "properly structured" international conference on the Middle East could play a "useful role", but made it clear that the United States still prefers a "comprehensive settlement through direct negotiations".

He also hinted that Israel should, at long last, agree to direct dialogue with Palestinians, without, however, mentioning the PLO.

"A new atmosphere must be created where Israelis and Arabs feel each other's willingness to compromise so that both sides can win," the U.S. President said.

He supported a Middle East settlement on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Mubarak in his remarks said that the meeting had ended "with a note of optimism and hope". Unlike Bush, he was more outspoken and got across the message that the time had come for Israel and the PLO to open talks.

The Egyptian president said that "the situation is ripe" for a comprehensive Middle East settlement, including a solution to the Palestinian problem.

"That settlement should be achieved through direct negotiations between Israel and all Arab partners, within the framework of the international peace conference," he explained.

He added that the basis for the negotiations was formed by Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, "the principle of land for peace, security for all parties concerned, and realisation of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people".

Bush and Mubarak made their comments just a few days before the arrival of Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir in Washington for talks with the U.S. President next Thursday.

Local observers suggest that Bush will attempt to persuade the Israeli head of government to budge from his tough stand and agree at least not to rule out possible talks with the PLO completely.

Both presidents spoke highly of U.S.-Egyptian relations and voiced readiness to develop them further.

A White House spokesman said bilateral relations, in particular economic contacts, would be discussed in greater detail on Tuesday when Mubarak meets Secretary of State James Baker and Finance Minister Nicholas Brady.

In this area the Washington-Cairo relations are not so cloudless. Egypt has been displeased, for instance, by U.S. demands for economic reform in return for further U.S. loans.

Chess Player's Defection to U.S. Confirmed

LD0104132289 Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] A spokesman for the Soviet Committee on Sports, in an interview for the trade union daily TRUD, has confirmed the western media reports that a young Soviet chess player, Gata Kamskiy, and his father have asked for asylum in the United States. Fourteen-year-old Gata Kamskiy took part in an international chess tournament in New York. The Sports Committee spokesman believes that the most probable reason for his decision not to return home was too great ambitions. Gata and his father began to claim that there were attempts to obstruct his career. In fact, no one sought to prevent the young chess player from achieving better results.

Gusev Receives Dow Chemical Director

PM0304121189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 89 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Developing Cooperation"]

[Text] On 30 March V.K. Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received A.J. Butler, president of the "Dow Chemical Europe" company and member of the board of directors of Dow Chemical (United States).

At the meeting there was a discussion of prospects for cooperation in the field of creating new industrial production facilities on the USSR's territory and modernizing existing facilities and further developing the trade in chemical products; there was also an examination of questions of ensuring ecological safety during the operation of chemical production facilities.

Murakhovskiy Meets Pepsico Chairman

PM0304120189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 89 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Opinions"]

[Text] On 31 March V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, received D. Kendall, chairman of the Executive Committee of Pepsico Inc (United States). There was an exchange of opinions on the state and prospects of the further development of trade and economic cooperation.

K.F. Katushev, USSR minister of foreign economic relations, took part in the talk.

'New Aspects' of U.S. Central America Policy Noted

PM0304161589 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Apr 89 First Edition p 3

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Observer Manki Ponomarev article under the rubric "The World Today: Problems and Opinions": "Paths to the Future"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] M.S. Gorbachev's visit to Cuba earnestly draws observers' attention not only to the problems of Cuban-Soviet relations, but also to the entire Central American region as a whole and to the events occurring there. Furthermore, intense interest is aroused by events occurring in and around Nicaragua.

It is 6 weeks since the meeting of Central American heads of state in El Salvador made important decisions on a political settlement of the situation. They mark a shift of emphasis from military to political ways of solving the existing problems. Let me remind readers that agreement was reached on disbanding the contras' armed formations, further democratizing life in Nicaragua, resuming dialogue with opposition parties and groups in that country, and holding general elections under extensive international monitoring next February. The reaching of these agreements proved an obvious fact to the whole world: The counterrevolution in Nicaragua has suffered a political and military defeat.

How will events develop in the future? We have every reason to assert that the foreign and domestic policy pursued by Nicaragua's revolutionary government is an example of an innovative and original approach. This policy conforms to the spirit of the new political thinking and with modern progressive trends in international politics. It constitutes a weighty contribution to a fair political settlement in Central America and is in line with the interests of achieving national reconciliation and democratization of life in Sandino's republic. But it must be especially emphasized at this point that special importance in this process attaches to strengthening the spirit of mutual restraint and trust between states in the region and observing the principles of freedom of choice, a sensible balance of interests, and noninterference.

It would, however, be incorrect to say that this is an easy process or that there are no longer any obstacles at all across the paths to a future without wars, bloody sacrifices, violence, and economic devastation. This is unfortunately not so. This is not only and not so much a matter of domestic problems in Nicaragua and the region's other countries as a matter of continuing outside interference in their affairs by the United States.

It would seem obvious that the main task of Central American states, of their neighbors, and of the entire world community is to ensure favorable conditions for stable and irreversible movement in the direction of eliminating the seat of tension there and implementing the decisions made at the five presidents' conference in El Salvador. This is exactly what Nicaragua itself, its friends, and the Soviet Union believe. The ruling U.S. circles cannot but perceive the total collapse of the former strongarm policy in the region. They have wasted vast sums—more than $200 million—to arm the Contras in the expectation of overthrowing the Sandinist government in Managua through contras wielding U.S. weapons. But they simply failed to attain their goals. Today, as THE WASHINGTON POST correctly wrote a few days ago, "We perceive the de facto end of the U.S. strategy of the 'contra era,' within whose framework the United States used Central America to try out the ideas of guerrilla struggle against a Marxist government." Spokesmen of the present administration make no secret of this, either. Secretary of State J. Baker, for example, speaking at a White House press conference on U.S. policy in Central America, was forced to declare for everyone to hear: "Without trying to place blame on the past policy, I think we must all admit that this policy as a whole has, to a certain extent, been a failure."

Eloquent admissions, indeed. Nevertheless, as France's L'HUMANITE aptly put it, "Washington still views Central America as its own backyard"—a backyard, I should add, where it feels free to act as it sees fit, disregarding the will of the peoples and the opinion of the world community. This is how one ought to evaluate the "agreement" reached in Washington on policy toward Central American problems. Why have I used quotation marks around "agreement" in this case? Simply because it has been reached not between the U.S. Administration and the governments of Nicaragua and the region's other countries, but... between two branches of power—the executive and the legislative—in Washington itself.

So what have the U.S. Administration and Congress agreed upon? First and foremost on the further financing of activities by contras kicked out of Nicaragua and entrenched in Honduras—between 11,000 and 13,000 of them at present. According to the decision elaborated at the meeting in El Salvador, plans for disbandment of their combat groups, demobilization of members of counterrevolutionary gangs, and their voluntary repatriation or settlement in other countries must be prepared within 3 months from the date the decision was made. Let me emphasize this: 3 months. Yet the Washington agreement envisages financing Contras on Honduran territory for at least 9 months. This is how Washington treats decisions made directly by the countries concerned.

Furthermore, although the appropriation of $45 million for supplies to the Contras does not envisage arms deliveries, it does not actually rule them out. Generally speaking, even though U.S. policy in the region no longer gives the appearance of exclusive application of brute force, official statements by administration officials indicate that it still assumes the application of "incentives and punishment"—or "stick and carrot" as the saying goes. The "carrot" would be provided by dubious promises to ease economic sanctions against Nicaragua. As for the "stick," it would be the maintenance of contra formations for virtually 1 more year in Honduras and the 82d Airborne Division's permanent readiness to intervene.

It goes without saying that Nicaragua resolutely condemned the U.S. Congress' decision to back President Bush's request to grant fresh aid to the contras to retain them as a "combat-capable force." In the opinion of Nicaragua's President D. Ortega, all this testifies to the U.S. desire to pursue the former policy of blackmail and threats against the republic. Indeed, the accord between the White House and Congress to maintain the Contras as a lever to influence the Sandinist government testifies to the retention of imperialist U.S. claims in the region.

The Soviet Union cannot, of course, overlook certain new aspects of Washington's policy toward the Central American conflict, especially the aim of making diplomatic efforts to solve the contra problem and the desire to try to confine itself to nonmilitary aid to the contra formations. At the same time, however, it is impossible not to condemn the new U.S. Administration's attempt to continue interference in the region's affairs and to cast doubts on the Soviet side's manifestations of the new political approach toward elimination of the seat of tension in Central America.

We are convinced that M.S. Gorbachev's visit to Cuba will once more prove to the whole world that the new political thinking is a concept by which the Soviet Union is guided not selectively but in all aspects of its foreign policy activity.

U.S. Lack of Diplomatic Initiatives Noted

LD0204014589 Moscow in English to North America 2200 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Valentin Zorin commentary]

[Text] I think the pause that began in Washington's foreign political activities following the administration replacement is becoming a bit too long. This will be particularly evident if one recalls that 10 out of 18 Cabinet ministers held their ministerial posts prior to the White House reshuffle, and the President himself used to be the second biggest figure in the American leadership for two terms.

Why is the political analysis launched by the U.S. Administration continuing for a third month already? Aren't there any in-depth reasons behind it?

One may remember the previous White House Administration would often act as slowly when it came to the United States' relations with the Soviet Union. I can fully agree with Ronald Reagan's witty observation that it takes a twosome to dance a tango. The Soviet initiatives would indeed have hit the air had it not been for a constructive response from Washington. But another thing is no less evident: Namely, the positive changes that have taken place in the international arena over the past few years are to a considerable extent related to the Soviet Union's efforts. I think the indisputable fact has already gone down in history that in the late 1980's this country abandoned the dogmas and stereotypes of the past to attach priority importance to humanitarian values and new thinking.

Regrettably, nothing of the kind can be said with regard to policymaking in the United States. Prominent Western analysts have been pointing out Washington's role has been confined to that of largely responding to Soviet initiatives. I'm calling attention to all that not in a bid to extol Soviet policies, nor meaning to follow some Western observers' example and launch a debate on who is in the lead in terms of advancing international initiatives. Humanity's future, which is the chief subject of international policymaking, is too serious an issue to be measured by yardsticks from the number of those employed in sports. [sentence as heard] People here in Moscow will welcome with profound satisfaction any Washington steps towards peace, trust, and mutual understanding and will never feel hurt if some of these steps are taken faster than we can afford.

And that in general is the Soviet people's attitude to the protracted foreign political pause in Washington. If this quiet period will give way to large-scale actions promising onward movement in Soviet-American relations and international affairs at large, the pause is well justified. But let's wait and see.

IMF Pessimistic About U.S. Budget Deficit

LD0404034189 Moscow TASS in English 0333 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Washington April 4 TASS—By TASS correspondent Nikolay Orekhov:

Continued huge U.S. federal budget and balance of payments deficits threaten a slowdown in world economic growth, a senior International Monetary Fund (IMF) official has warned.

Speaking at a news conference here Monday, Jacob Frankel, director of the IMF Research Department, doubted the Bush Administration's ability to quickly resolve the deficit problem.

According to IMF experts' computations, the White House uses "unrealistic", too upbeat estimates of U.S. economic prospects in its plans for trimming down the budget deficit.

President Bush, for example, promised to cut it to 91 billion dollars in fiscal 1990. The IMF takes the view, however, that the deficit that year will add up to 148 million dollars.

In fiscal 1993 the U.S. Administration hopes not only to do away with the deficit but to make sure that revenue will exceed spending by four billion dollars. The IMF predicts, by contrast, that the deficit will reach 114 billion dollars.

Frankel said that the deficit was undercutting faith in the dollar, pushing down its exchange rates in world markets and destabilising the West's financial system.

Foreign Affairs Student Exchange Pact With U.S.

LD0104062289 Moscow TASS in English 0616 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Washington April 1 TASS—By TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin:

The Soviet policy of openness has removed yet another "taboo" which blocked exchange between the Soviet Union and the United States. The area previously closed to bilateral rapprochement is training of foreign affairs scholars and professionals.

A protocol was signed on Friday in Washington by the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Consortium of U.S. Universities on exchanges between diplomatic training institutes operated by the Soviet Foreign Ministry and American universities with schools of international affairs.

Under the agreement, American students and experts will be able to attend the Moscow State Institute for International Relations and the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Soviet scholars will be welcome at schools of international affairs at 13 American higher school centres united by the Consortium of U.S. Universities.

The agreement ensued from the signing in Geneva on November 21, 1985 of a general agreement between the governments of the Soviet Union and the United States on contacts, exchanges, and cooperation in science, technology, education, culture, and other fields.

China

Li Peng Welcomes 'Normalization' of USSR Ties

LD0304192689 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1230 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Beijing, 3 Apr (TASS)—Correspondent Gennadiy Krivosheyev reports: Li Peng, member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee and prime minister of the PRC State Council,

stated today at a news conference here for Chinese and foreign journalists that the most important thing in the forthcoming Sino-Soviet summit meeting will be the fact that it heralds the normalization of interstate relations between the two countries. For a lengthy period relations between our two contries were abnormal. China and the Soviet Union have a common 7,000-kilometer-long border, and such abnormal relations meet neither the interests of the peoples of China nor the USSR.

China pursues an independent peaceful foreign policy, the head of the Chinese Government noted, and the normalization of relations with the Soviet Union will promote the peaceful situation around China. At the same time, Li Peng noted that the normalization will play a positive role in developing ties between the two countries in such areas as economics, culture, and education.

China does not intend to imitate the Soviet experience of implementing political reform, the prime minister of the PRC State Council went on. Replying to a question on whether China intends to overcome the practice that stipulates "collective responsibility" for mistakes at work, he said that reform will be carried out in this area, too. It will take place at the same time as economic transformations. However, conditions in China are different from conditions in the USSR and we cannot imitate the Soviet experience. At the same time, we believe that other socialist countries have no need to imitate Chinese methods, since reforms in all countries should be carried out in accordance with the specific conditions in those states.

During the meeting, the sides will conduct a broad exchange of views on bilateral relations and international problems, including the situation around Cambodia, Li Peng said.

NPC Deputies Welcome Normalized USSR Ties

LD0304105189 Moscow TASS in English 1035 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Beijing April 3 TASS—By TASS correspondents Marat Abukhatin and Gennadiy Krivosheyev:

The upcoming Soviet-Chinese summit conference is an event of major importance which attracts worldwide attention, it was noted in speeches delivered here at the current session of the National People's Congress [NPC]. The speakers expressed the hope that the meeting would be successful and would mark a complete normalisation of relations between the USSR and the People's Republic of China.

Hao Jianheng, deputy from Heilongjiang Province, noted that improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations met the basic interests not only of the two nations, but was in the interests of peace and stability in Asia and all over the world.

Ma Ji, deputy general director of the Harbin company for international economic and technological cooperation, expressed the conviction that the Soviet-Chinese summit meeting would serve the cause of promoting contacts between the two countries.

Chang Jinjun, deputy from the town of Jiamusi, said that normalisation of relations between the USSR and China would not harm the interests of third countries, since they would be based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Li Changchun, chairman of the people's government of the northeastern Province of Liaoning, stressed that development of Soviet-Chinese regional economic and technological cooperation had vast prospects due to territorial proximity and reciprocal advantage.

In talks with Soviet correspondents the congress deputies unanimously noted that the Chinese harbored sincere friendly feelings for the Soviet people, showed lively interest in perestroyka and welcomed heartily the forthcoming normalisation of Soviet-Chinese relations.

PRC Delegation To Visit Gagarin Space Center

LD0404090289 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] The Foreign Relations Committee delegation of the PRC Province of Heilongjiang will continue to acquaint itself with the Soviet capital today. The delegation is visiting at the invitation of the RSFSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The guests have visited Novosibirsk, Irkutsk, Bratsk, and Leningrad and have held talks with Soviet representatives on strengthening contacts in the sphere of economics, science, culture, and developing links with the public. Today the delegation plans to visit Zvezdnyy Gorodok [Star City] and the Gagarin cosmonaut training center.

Near East & South Asia

Vorontsov 30 Mar Interview on Afghan Situation

AU0304150989 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 31 Mar 89 pp 1,4

[Interview with Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister and ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan, by RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent Volodya Stratiev on 30 March in Kabul: "Common Sense Should Stop Weapons"]

[Text] [Stratiev] I expected this meeting to be much more formal. It may sound like a cliche, but the distance between the journalist and the diplomat who is implementing Soviet foreign policy in a particularly complicated situation seemed to disappear in the first minutes of the interview. How do you evaluate the situation in Afghanistan today?

[Vorontsov] I think that all people in the world realize how drastically the situation in this country has changed, compared to the previous years. Soviet troops withdrew from Afghan territory 1 and ½ months ago. The Republic of Afghanistan is willing to establish peace in the country, but is being prevented from doing so. It is prevented by weapons delivered from the territory of neighboring countries, namely from Pakistan. This actually means that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Afghan people are exposed to attacks from the territories of foreign countries.

I would like once more to stress that a completely new situation has been created here. On the one hand, Soviet troops were withdrawn—not even one Soviet subunit is stationed here. On the other hand, foreigners have invaded the country, namely those coming from Pakistan. The so-called mujahidin are fighting in the front lines today, while advisers from certain Arab states are fighting in the second line, and the Pakistani subunits are fighting in the third line. This, on the one hand, pushes the mujahidin to attack, while, on the other hand, it prevents them from withdrawing. This situation is quite evident today. It justifies the statement that Pakistan, or the Pakistani military clique, to put it more precisely, is participating in the combat operations on Afghan territory. This is the new element of the situation—namely the presence of foreigners from a neighboring country with aggressive goals.

I would like to point out a very important factor—namely that the Geneva agreements were signed, not only by Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, but also by Pakistan and the United States.

[Stratiev] The withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan was only one element of the agreements; they contained numerous other items....

[Vorontsov] The Geneva agreements are well-balanced documents. On the one hand, they defined obligations of the USSR; and on the other hand, those of Pakistan and the United States. The obligation of the Soviet Union was to withdraw its troops, while the interference of Pakistan was supposed to stop at the same time. Pakistan raised many objections on this issue during the Geneva negotiations: It insisted on a text authorizing interference from Pakistani territory. But the commitments Pakistan was expected to assume and sign are clear: No interference whatsoever from Pakistani territory is allowed. (At this point Yuliy Vorontsov showed me the text of the Geneva agreements where paragraphs 4, 7, and 12 describe the obligations of noninterference).

Pakistan has fully violated these agreements. There is data according to which "legal pieces of evidence" are now being prepared in Islamabad related to the fact that the Geneva agreements are allegedly no longer valid, and that a new situation has allegedly emerged as a result of the establishment of the so-called provisional mujahidin government, which has not signed any agreements.

All this makes Pakistan's political honesty very questionable. It turns out that one should not sign any agreements with Pakistan, since they are immediately violated. The question about the political honesty of the United States also emerges. How can the U.S. be a guarantor for the Geneva agreements when it permits Pakistan to violate them on all items? How can we trust the U.S. signature and how can we sign other agreements with the United States after they violated the obligations assumed in Geneva?

The Soviet Union today attributes priority importance to stopping the violations of the Geneva agreements. The United Nations could play a major role in this respect. The General Assembly adopted a special resolution welcoming the withdrawal of the Soviet troops and pointing out that it is necessary to assist the Afghan people today so they can establish a broad-based government. The UN secretary general was entrusted with this task. We should point out that the general secretary has not been particularly active on these issues recently, and our country, as a guarantor of the Geneva agreements, insists that he should make sure that Pakistan observes these agreements. The UN observers should now follow the situation at the Afghan-Pakistani borders as carefully as they observed the situation at the border between Afghanistan and the USSR. Their observers were posted in Hayratan, Termez, and Kushka while the Soviet troops were withdrawing. Why are there no observers at the Pakistani border? They say that combat operations are taking place there. There are no combat operations at the border, however. The most dangerous combat is being fought near Jalalabad, in the heart of Afghan territory. The border is being crossed by troops, including regular Pakistani units.

[Stratiev] The Geneva agreements were accepted by the world public as a model of settling regional conflicts. Nearly a year has elapsed since their signing. Which of the expectations were justified, in your opinion, and which were not?

[Vorontsov] This document served as an example for the solution of numerous problems, such as settlement of the conflicts around Cambodia and in Central America. However, when an agreement has been worked out with so much effort, whether it is implemented is important. Hence, before they become a model for the settlement of other conflicts, the Geneva agreements should serve as a model for restoring peace in Afghanistan.

[Stratiev] You have made several trips. You have had meetings with representatives of both Afghan sides involved in the conflict, as well as with state leaders of several countries. What do you think? Can the solution of the Afghanistan problem be accelerated through diplomatic actions?

[Vorontsov] This can happen, if the sides involved in the conflict keep their word. I truly visited numerous countries. Let us consider Pakistan. I had talks with all Pakistan's leaders, and they all declared that the Afghan

problem should be entirely resolved by political means, that there should be no military solution to this issue. Actually, however, Islamabad continues to deliver arms and throw the mujahidin as well as its own troops into combat near Jalalabad. Can this be called a political solution? No. We have not been confronted with such a blatant discrepancy between words and deeds in international relations for a long time.

This also applies to a number of the main Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia. Highranking leaders of this country assured me that the solution to the Afghanistan problem can only be a political one, that bloodshed should be excluded. However, the bloodshed continues even more intensly since the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. Numerous Arab advisers are stationed in Afghanistan and we see what Saudi Arabia itself is doing. It recognizes some sort of formation, which it calls a provisional government, and supports its military advisers with military actions. If this is the way to build up international relations, nothing good will come of this in international relations.

[Stratiev] You said at the beginning of the interview that following the withdrawal of Soviet troops the situation within the country and around Afghanistan has reached a new stage of development. Can you describe the specific forms of cooperation between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan in this critical situation facing the Afghan people?

[Vorontsov] Yes, the situation is difficult. However, we have many projects and agreements for economic cooperation. In order to restore the economy of Afghanistan and guarantee its successful development, however, the fighting should stop.

We still give much assistance to Afghanistan by delivering food supplies from the Soviet Union. Attempts are being made to prevent these deliveries by the blockade around Kabul, and we are supplying the foodstuffs by air, which is certainly very expensive. However, in this particular case we think that assistance is more important than the expense.

As long as the efforts from abroad to settle the Afghanistan problem by military means persist, we will continue to provide military support to the Republic of Afghanistan. At the present stage, the country needs weapons and ammunition for its own protection. You can see that the Army of the Republic is only acting in self-defense and is not conducting any offensive operations.

The Soviet Union has submitted a proposal to discontinue all arms deliveries for Afghanistan from any country whatsoever. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan agrees with the USSR, the United States, and all Western countries, naturally, also with Pakistan, that all arms deliveries to the country should be simultaneously discontinued. This would be an effective means of stopping the military actions, but the West refuses to accept the proposal and has rejected it. Pakistan, in the meantime, acts as if this proposal does not concern it at all. Thus, the arms deliveries to Afghanistan continue. As a result of this, weapons are required for defensive purposes. The Republic of Afghanistan will be further supplied with the necessary quantity of high quality weapons it requires. The country's armed forces are strong, they are fighting well as the fighting for Jalalabad is showing, and as long as the pressure continues, they will be supplied with weapons for their defense.

[Stratiev] Will the Soviet Union adopt new steps on the international scene such as, for example, at the United Nations for accelerating the political solution of the conflict?

[Vorontsov] Such actions are underway at this moment. At the United Nations we insist that the secretary general intensify his actions in searching for new means of a political settlement. We support the idea of President Najibullah, which also enjoys the support of several opposition groups, to convene an international conference. We are supporting the idea that the United Nations should be the initiator of such a conference, taking into account the solutions and resolutions adopted, and so forth. It is our opinion that preparations should start immediately.

[Stratiev] Can you tell us something about the correlation concerning "diplomacy versus military strength" in present-day politics?

[Vorontsov] Diplomacy has always played an important role in dealing with the Afghanistan problem. Let us take the Geneva agreements as an example. We did not give up our policy and are acting together with the Afghan comrades in favor of political solutions. Nevertheless, arms are an obstacle to diplomacy. Weapons, which are striking from Pakistan, are preventing our political actions. Weapons are fighting against diplomacy today. Let us hope that diplomacy will prevail.

[Stratiev] Does this mean that you are an optimist?

[Vorontsov] By all means. Symptoms of considerable differences between the mujahidin have emerged. They realize that their military actions can only result in great losses for them and will not bring them any advantages. Their losses are truly great: thousands of people are being killed. Dissatisfaction also prevails in the refugee camps. As is known, women's revolts erupted there and weapons were used against them.

I would like to tell you of an episode. In Islamabad I had talks with representatives of the "Council of Seven" and the "Council of Eight," namely with 15 representatives of 15 opposition groups altogether. I was sitting on one side of the negotiating table; they were sitting on the other side. I asked them: Why did you refuse to stop the war? I cannot understand you. People in the Soviet Union cannot understand. You are striving for power.

You are 15 people sitting here. Why should you kill Afghans, when the road to Kabul is open to you, to your political participation in a coalition government on a broad basis? You could all be there. You are 15 people here; it would have been sufficient to place a 16th chair for the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and this could constitute the coalition government on a broad basis. Why should you go on killing people, if a solution to the conflict is possible today? They looked at me, they looked at the place where I said another chair could be placed and did not know how to answer. They said: No, we are going to fight. Why? For whom, and for what? I still cannot understand, and they did not answer me. I ask you, whom does it serve to kill?

The losses in the combat operations near Jalalbad have already reached 10,000 human lives. Why? They will not capture Jalalabad, and the losses will continue. In the long run, the problem will have to be solved by political means, a compromise will be reached. However, what has been lost is lost. The sooner they understand that this is pointless, the better. I think that they will soon understand.

Afghan Foreign Minister Stops Over in Moscow
LD0304164189 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1602 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Moscow 3 Apr (TASS)—Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil arrived in Moscow today on his way from Kabul to New York.

A. Wakil was met at the airport by USSR Deputy Foreign Minister B.N. Chaplin and Afghan Ambassador to the USSR S.M. Gulabzoy.

No Soviet, Indian, Cuban Troops in Afghanistan
LD0304150389 Moscow TASS In English 1444 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Yuriy Kornilov commentary]

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—By TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov:

A host of hoaxes have originated in Islamabad on these days. Quite recently, the Pakistani newspaper THE MUSLIM claimed, quoting "military intelligence sources", that "Soviet troops remain" in Afghanistan's northeastern regions.

The fabrication was immediately denied by Moscow and Kabul. But hardly had the print colour dried on the THE MUSLIM pages carrying that sensation, when other Pakistani news media outlets came up with a similar scoop: 600 Indian military pilots and technicians are at the "service of Kabul."

The fake, as it was to be expected, had not lived long after both the Indian and the Afghan press media ridiculed it. But the fabrication process proceeded unabatedly.

The most recent output alleges that it is Cuban servicemen who are helping the Afghan Armed Forces.

Naturally, it is no accident that the misinformers are stubbornly, although vainly, looking for "foreign servicemen" fighting on the side of the government troops in Afghanistan. Their objective is dual.

On the one hand, they are trying to explain the fact that all attempts of the so-called irreconcilable opposition and its overseas sponsors to seize Jalalabad suffer one defeat after another.

On the other hand, the attempt is to divert public attention from Pakistan's direct aggression against the neighbouring sovereign country, the aggression in which Islamabad is using not only its military advisers, but also regular troops.

One hoax leads to another, one lie is inevitably followed by another. Islamabad comes up with numerous statements declaring its adherence to the leter and spirit of the Geneva accords that rest on the cessation of outside interference in Afghan affairs.

But while prattling about inadmissibility of such interference, Pakistan is moving in an opposite direction: It forms and arms units of extremists, encourages them to more acts of violence on Afghan soil and openly works out plans of exporting to Kabul a "transitional government," knocked together under Islamabad's auspices outside Afghanistan and behind the back of the Afghan people.

The anti-Afghan propaganda, built on purposeful disinformation, has actually become part of the course towards undermining the Geneva agreements, pursued by Afghan extremists and their Pakistani patrons.

There is another point to make: As soon as Pakistani newspapers come up with a hoax, many Western mass media bodies eagerly provide space for the fabrications.

What is the explanation? Can it be that the Pakistani military intelligence, acting as the chief source of disinformation, is closely linked with the Pentagon's intelligence services or the CIA?

Can it be that the circulation of anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet fabrications is something that not only Islamabad looks after?

What is definitely clear is that the malicious fakes about the state of affairs in Afghanistan and around it, with or without Pakistan's prompting, are picked up by many bourgeois papers.

And this is taking place on the eve of an international information forum to be held in London. At this forum, many Western "experts" are going to persuade the press to be more truthful and accurate.

Kabul Goods Shortages, Economic Hardship Viewed
PM0304130589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Apr 89 Morning Edition p 4

[Special correspondent A. Ivanko report: "Kabul: Difficulties Caused by War"]

[Text] Kabul is experiencing serious difficulties; this is plain to see. Waiting lines, never seen in the past, are now an inalienable feature of the city's image. People wait in line for bread, gasoline, and other vital necessities.

The economic hardships have primarily hit the poorer strata of the population, forcing the government to take urgent measures. Flour and cheese are now distributed free in the Afghan capital.

"Residents receive goods either at firm state prices or free of charge; a coupon system is in operation," Afghanistan's Minister of Commerce Burhanuddin Ghiasi told me. "Tea, sugar, soap, and matches are distributed at firm prices, and meat, chickens, and eggs are distributed according to availability."

Gasoline is also issued by norms—100 liters per month for drivers of private vehicles and 400 liters for taxi drivers. The chronic shortage of gasoline and the complexity of supplies have made the government restrict its consumption of gasoline for state motor vehicle transport. Rigid norms have been introduced for everyone: A minister, for example, rates 200 liters per month, and his deputies 150 liters. There are also restrictions on kerosene and diesel fuel.

"The shortages are largely attributable to our own miscalculations," the minister went on. "We did not stockpile essentials in time, and now we are forced to bring them in from other regions, including areas of combat operations. We are striving to make utmost use of the private sector in the transportation of freight and are helping the merchants with transportation."

Private trade in Kabul has not slowed down, but prices are exorbitant. The state is making no attempt to regulate their market level: This would only antagonize the stall owners and prompt them to close down their stalls. The only point on which the authorities insist is a drop in prices at least for foodstuffs. The initial positive results are already there: In the last few days mutton has been selling at 600 afghanis per kg (against 900 afghanis previously), and flour prices have also dropped to 600 afghanis for 7 kg.

The "Continental" Hotel. A foreign currency exchange office operates there, buying and selling dollars at the market rate. The point is that previously foreigners and Afghans alike exchanged foreign currency on the black market, where the dollar, in particular, was worth four or five times more than its official rate. The foreign currency the republic needs so badly used to bypass the state. It was then decided to open a so-called "free cash point" in the bank, where anyone could officially change foreign currency at the market rate.

The exacerbation of the situation along the Afghan-Pakistani border, the battles near Jalalabad, and the impossibility of obtaining goods from Pakistan have forced merchants to seek new ways to supply goods. Cigarettes, clothing, and radio equipment are arriving from Malaysia, Singapore, and Hong Kong in transit through other countries.

Pakistani Politician Criticizes Afghan Policy
LD0404001189 Moscow TASS in English 2323 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad April 4 TASS—The president of the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Party, Air Marshal (Ret.) Mohammad Asghar Khan, has criticised the Pakistani Government's policy on Afghanistan, warning that it is fraught with dangerous implications for Pakistan itself.

Speaking in an interview with the newspaper DAWN, which was published Monday, he said Pakistan had never had a friendly neighbour on its Eastern border but the shortsighted policy of the leadership had now made the situation on the Western border even more dangerous.

Asghar Khan noted also that Islamabad's Afghan policy was supported by three categories of Pakistanis. One included those capitalising on arms sales to mujahidin, another those who had been duped by religious leaders, and the last those who had never even attempted to realise the consequences of the developing situation, he said.

USSR, Iran 'Serious' About Improving Ties
LD3103183589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The talks between the Iranian and Soviet foreign ministers in Moscow is the topic of our first news report, which you will now hear:

Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, this morning started the first round of his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. According to the Central News Unit report, these talks were held following the talks held by expert teams from both sides in various committees to investigate the grounds for political, economic, and international cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union.

According to this report, the Soviet foreign minister, referring to the changes that have come about in bilateral relations, said: The exchange of messages between the two countries' leaders is the sign of the start of a new stage in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union.

Mr Shevardnadze also said: The Soviet leadership attaches great importance to the talks between the two countries; our belief is that since our talks in Tehran,

effective steps have been taken for the expansion of relations. Addressing Mr Velayati, he said: Your visit demonstrates that relations between the two countries have reached a practical stage, and we should try to make use of this new atmosphere to create a climate of good-neighborliness and real bilateral cooperation.

In response, Mr Velayati said: Our evaluation of our relations as a whole is very similar to your evaluation. We believe that during the past few months a qualitative change has taken place in bilateral relations, based on the two countries' wishes. Our relations with you have achieved trustworthy [qabel-e e'temad] foundations, and the two sides have shown that they are serious about the practical improvement of relations.

According to the Central News Unit report, the two sides also exchanged opinions and had discussions about the Security Council resolution [598]. Mr Velayati stressed: Resolution 598 is the basis of discussions and Iraq must give up its obstructionism and cooperate with the secretary general in the implementation of the resolution, the first priority of which is the withdrawal of forces to recognized international borders.

He emphasized: The progress of talks would depend on the fact that Iraq is serious in the discussions about the implementation of the resolution.

Mr Shevardnadze expressed his hope that the two sides [Iran and Iraq], while cooperating with the secretary general, will implement Resolution 598 as soon as possible. He added: The Soviet Union is ready with every kind of assistance in this field.

According to the same report, concerning the Afghanistan issue, Mr Velayati, while describing the Soviet decision to withdraw forces from Afghanistan as a positive act, stressed: The Afghanistan issue should be solved in a regional context and without the intereference of foreign powers, and on the basis of the wishes and demands of the Muslim Afghan people.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran will support an independent and nonaligned Afghanistan in which the people of that country have a share in deciding the country's future. Mr Velayati added: By adopting a realistic policy, the Soviet Union can find a political solution to the issue of Afghanistan, putting an end to bloodshed and ensuring the security of the struggling Afghan nation.

The Central News Unit report also adds that in these talks other issues of relations between the two countries in economic, industrial, and technical fields were also discussed, and the need for expanding and strengthening this cooperation was stressed. In the continuation of this meeting, committees dealing with regional and international issues submitted the reports of their discussions.

Iran-Iraq Peace Talks, POW Issue Viewed

NC0304142889 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: As previously reported, preparations are being made in New York for the fourth round of the Iran-Iraq peace talks. Our commentator writes the following in relation to this:

The prisoner of war issue holds a special place in the list of the various obstacles to solving the differences between Iran and Iraq. There is no doubt that both countries will pay great attrention to this in the fourth round of talks. The exact number of Iranian and Iraqi prisoners-of-war is still not known, but the issue concerns the fate of tens of thousands of people who have been cut off from their homelands and are living in extremely bad conditions.

Despite this, neither Iran nor Iraq has been able to reach an agreement on the exchange of prisoners-of-war. Let us see where the difference lies. Iraq proposes that the issue of the prisoners-of-war be solved outside the framework of the talks, because this is a problem of a more humanitarian than political or legal nature. Iran claims that the Iraqi troops, which have occupied more than 1,000 square km of Iranian territory, should first withdraw from Iranian territory. Moreover, Tehran categorically rejects any discussion of this issue separately and insists that the problem can be solved only within the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 598. As a result, Iraq's proposal on a wide-scale exchange of prisoners-of-war is pending.

News agencies have reported that Baghdad is prepared to return 20,000 prisoners-of-war to Iran, if Iran reciprocates. However, Tehran has not reacted in any way to this readiness. [passage omitted]

It is very clear that the exchange of prisoners-of-war cannot be accomplished in a [word indistinct]. Nevertheless, both countries should move in the same direction and toward [word indistinct], especially since positive results have been achieved so far. [passage omitted]

Iran has announced that on 1 April it will release 70 wounded and sick Iraqi prisoners-of-war on the 10th anniversary of the declaration of the Islamic Republic.

Our commentator then writes: The issue of the ideological brainwashing of the prisoners-of-war is yet another obstacle impeding the exchange of prisoners-of-war. We know that in both countries propaganda campaigns are organized during which both sides announce that some of the prisoners-of-war are refusing to return to their homelands. However, it cannot be determined in any way whether these are voluntary decisions or not. Meanwhile, Iran and Iraq often blame each other for having placed their prisoners-of-war under pressure and dire

living conditions, and the UN has repeatedly called on both governments to take the necessary steps to ensure the rights of the prisoners-of-war and improve their living situation.

Our commentator concludes: The bloody 8-year war brought numerous calamities to both the Iranian and Iraqi peoples. On the basis of estimates made by international organizations, at least 300,000 Iranians and 120,000 Iraqis (?were killed during the war). These losses are irreparable. However, all the possible steps should be taken so that tens of thousands of captive soldiers can return to their homelands as soon as possible. In order to achieve this end, the two sides should display the necessary (?wisdom) and agree to a logical solution.

TV-Radio Broadcasting Protocol With Kuwait
LD0304182589 Moscow TASS in English 1727 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait April 3 TASS—A protocol on cooperation in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting was signed here on Monday by the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information for 1989-1991. The protocol provides for the exchange of feature films, documentaries, popular-science films, musicals, radio and tv programmes.

Culture Cooperation Program Signed With Tunisia
PM0304133789 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Mar 89 Moscow Edition p 3

[TASS report under the general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] A USSR-Tunisian program for cooperation in the spheres of culture, education, and science in 1989-1990 was signed 24 March at the USSR Foreign Ministry.

Soviet Addresses Moroccan Socialist Congress
PM0404084589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 89 Second Edition p 4

[Dispatch by PRAVDA correspondent S. Filatov and TASS correspondent V. Korzelev: "At Moroccan Socialists' Congress"]

[Text] Rabat, 31 Mar—The Fifth Congress of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP] has begun work in the Moroccan capital. This party, created in 1974, sets itself the aim of "building a socialism based on the specific features of Moroccan society." The USFP holds anti-U.S. positions, supporting the peoples struggling for freedom and independence.

Over 1,200 delegates gathered for the congress. A. Bouabid, first secretary of the USFP, delivered the Political Bureau's report. He said, in particular, that the party's strategic tasks at the present stage are the attainment of "democracy in the economy" and satisfaction of the urgent needs of the people's masses.

The international section of the report states that the USFP assesses highly the USSR's initiatives on the path of ending the nuclear arms race, limiting conventional arms, and eliminating some types of weapons. The new political thinking proclaimed by the USSR is of decisive significance for the future of mankind, A. Bouabid stated.

The forum is being attended by 28 delegations from the communist, workers, and patriotic parties of a number of countries. The head of the Soviet delegation, L.N. Spiridonov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chief editor of PRAVDA, read out greetings from the CPSU Central Committee to the USFP congress.

Leaders Sends Disaster Condolences to PDRY
PM0304113189 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Mar 89 Morning Edition p 1

[USSR leadership bodies' condolences to PDRY leaders on natural disaster]

[Text] To Comrade 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee,

Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] Supreme People's Council Presidium,

Comrade Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, prime minister of the PDRY.

We express sincere condolences and sympathy in connection with the natural disaster caused by torrential rain and mudflows that has struck the PDRY.

The Soviet people are in solidarity with the people of friendly Democratic Yemen in their determination to overcome the consequences of this difficult ordeal.

We ask you to convey our condolences to the bereaved families.

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Security Council Chairman Urges Work on Namibia
LD0404021689 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0103 GMT 4 Apr 89

["Statement on Namibia by the Chairman of the UN Security Council"—TASS headline]

[Text] New York, 4 Apr (TASS)—The UN Security Council on Monday conducted closed consultations on the Namibia situation. Its chairman, Aleksandr Belonogov, USSR permanent representative at the UN, said that the members of the Security Council heard a preliminary report by the UN secretary general on the

situation in northern Namibia. He expressed the hope that all the council's members would study the report and confer with their governments.

"In the capacity of chairman of the Security Council, I would like to stress the gravity of the latest events on that territory," Belonogov said. "I deeply regret the loss of life and urge all parties to display maximum restraint. In my opinion, the interests of Namibian independence require total cooperation by the sides with the secretary general and his special representative, and scrupulous respect for the agreements concerning the plan for a settlement. Full implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 corresponds to the interests of all the people of Namibia. The members of the Security Council resolutely advocate its successful implementation. They fully support the efforts of the secretary general to resolve the crisis that has arisen. [no closing quotation mark as received]

RSA Still Threat to Namibian Independence

PM0304112589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 89 Second Edition p 5

[Mikhail Zenovich "Observer's Opinion" under general heading "Namibia Acquires Independence"]

[Text] And so the official countdown has begun for the transitional period that should be crowned by the proclamation of the independence of this last colonial territory in Africa. The content of the period is defined by the UN plan, which provides for gradual elimination of the military and administrative presence of the Republic of South Africa [RSA] and the holding of free democratic elections for a constituent assembly. The deputies to this assembly will approve a constitution and set the date for the granting of independence.

The arrangements for "removing" Namibia from the control of the South African authorities have been scheduled with a meticulousness that any general staff might envy: The precise deadlines for winding up the activity of the UN administrative group for rendering assistance to Namibia in the transitional period (UNTAG) and of the contingent of "blue helmets" attached to it, the stages of the withdrawal of the RSA's occupation army, and the date of the elections have all been set.

As for the difficulties the country is experiencing, they are based on Pretoria's desire to prevent a victory for the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO)—the recognized vanguard of the struggle for freedom. Considering that the future constitution should be approved by two-thirds of the assembly deputies, the South African administration has set in motion the levers of its influence in the country to prevent SWAPO from collecting the necessary quorum. South African agents are breaking up election meetings of SWAPO supporters, especially in rural areas where the majority of Namibians live, and are intimidating the peasants. The cobbling together of parties and blocs opposing SWAPO is being activated. Attempts to increase the age qualification for voters from 18 to 21 in order to deprive SWAPO of thousands of votes run in the same direction.

We are put on guard by the fact that the RSA's maneuvers have recently been accompanied by systematic protests about the United Nations' "lack of objectivity" and the preference it allegedly has for SWAPO. Independent African countries closely following the development of the situation in Namibia link the emergent pressure on the UN group with Pretoria's overall tactical design. And the design is to reduce UNTAG's activity to purely formal functions.

How can realization of that danger be prevented? The answer to this question should evidently be sought on the path of prompt and truthful information about how the UN plan is being implemented. It is essential to react promptly to any attempts to impede implementation. The voluntary UN assistance groups created in many countries could play a definite part here.

...In brief, there is nothing surprising in the caution being heard today over the start of the concluding stage of Namibia's decolonization. The struggle for freedom will continue for many years yet. It has often seemed that victory was still a long way off. But today hope for a fair outcome shines more brightly than ever. We cannot allow it to be extinguished.

USSR-U.S. Cooperation on Africa Necessary

LD3103123889 Moscow in Portuguese to Africa 1800 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Nikolay Kosukhin commentary]

[Excerpts] Today we invite you to another meeting with Soviet Africanologist Prof Nikolay Kosukhin. Our listeners are already familiar with his name because he has become a regular contributor to Moscow Radio programs.

The present world situation gives much food for thought. For example, in light of the international detente beginning to take shape, many Africans, including national and party leaders, are wondering if the improved USSR-U.S. relations will be detrimental to Africa and whether they will have adverse effects on Soviet-African relations.

Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira stated recently in Harare, at a seminar on humanitarian aid in conflict situations, that it does not necessarily follow that [words indistinct] will lead to the establishment of peace and security in the Third World countries. In his opinion, the superpowers might continue their rivalry by helping opposing groups in domestic conflicts. We asked Nikolay Kosukhin for his opinion:

[Begin recording] [Kosukhin, here and subsequently, in Russian with superimposed Portuguese translation] Today, every aspect of Soviet-U.S. relations concerns many people. I became personally aware of this after visiting Angola and Nigeria and talking to many people there. There is a fear that in the near future the world might find itself under the two superpowers' joint rule, that, having come to an understanding, they might start to impose their will on the world's peoples.

This view of the developments currently unfolding—which are, in essence, positive—should be taken into account. This is why it is very important to explain that the basis of the new political thinking in international relations proclaimed by the USSR is no more nor less than the principle of the freedom of choice.

Obviously no one, not the USSR, not the United States, nor both together, has the right to tell other peoples what development path they should follow. Therefore, it is out of the question even to speak of a joint pressure mechanism. The new political thinking places above all considerations the joint responsibility of the United States and the USSR for both world peace and the destiny of the developing countries. It should be borne in mind that the economic crisis in which Africa and many developing countries elsewhere find themselves causes as much anxiety in international life as East-West rivalries. The recent bloody events in Venezuela are an example of the consequences of a worsening of the workers' economic situation in the Third World. [passage indistinct]

[Announcer] There is also another kind of fear, especially in the countries that have opted for the path to socialism: Will the USSR abandon its class stance in international relations? [words indistinct]

[Kosukhin] I shall not pretend otherwise. We remain, as before, interested in the propagation of socialism, and we do not think the choice we made over 70 years ago was wrong. At the same time, we believe that each people has the right to make its own choice. The USSR has no intention of abandoning its undertakings toward several African countries. As for the changes taking place in the USSR itself and in the international arena, they will make it possible to widen and improve already existing relations.

This concerns the economic sphere, first and foremost. As for politics, there are already examples of constructive cooperation between the USSR and the United States in the resolution of a number of regional conflicts: for example, in southern Africa, in the Horn of Africa, and in Chad.

We take the view that the basis for progress is the values shared by the whole of mankind, and the foremost concern must be the preservation of human life and the natural environment. Only recently, scientists discovered that the earth's ozone layer is thinning to a catastrophic degree. Only joint international action can save mankind. For the sake of mankind's survival, we must set aside all considerations that might hinder broad international cooperation. [passage omitted]

Recently there have been many meetings between Soviet and U.S. scientists. With specific reference to the Africa Institute, this organization has launched a joint Soviet-U.S. Project for Africa to seek solutions to the continent's acute problems. However, it is doubtful that Africa will be able to eliminate its backwardness before the end of the century. World attention will continue to focus on its problems. It is clear for all to see that only through the concerted effort of the developed countries, first and foremost the USSR and the United States, will it be possible for the world's poorest continent to find the path of economic (?revival). [end recording]

East Europe

Hungary's Grosz Visits Transcarpathia 3 Apr

Arrives in Transcarpathian Oblast

LD0304114689 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1128 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Kiev, 3 Apr (TASS)—Karoly Grosz, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party [MSZMP], arrived today for a brief visit to the Transcarpathian Oblast of the Soviet Ukraine at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. His itinerary includes meetings with working people and leaders of the oblast. The visitor will go on a trip to one of the rayons of Transcarpathia, Beregovskiy, where a sizeable proportion of the inhabitants are Hungarians living by nationality.

Tours Transcarpathia

LD0304215389 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1737 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Moscow, 3 Apr (TASS)—K. Grosz, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP], has been in Transcarpathian Oblast today at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. There was a conversation at the Transcarpathian Oblast Party Committee. The guest was familiarized with the history and achievements in socialist construction of the working people of the kray, in which representatives of around 40 nationalities live and work in a single family. There are around 170,000 Soviet citizens of Hungarian nationality in Transcarpathia, with its population of 1.2 million. The communists and working people of the oblast are persistently implementing the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, and have become actively involved in the restructuring processes begun at the party's initiative.

Taking advantage of its geographical situation—the oblast is on the interface of the borders of the USSR, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Romanian Socialist Republic and the CSSR—the

collectives of Transcarpathia's enterprises and organizations have established direct links with 40 partners in the fraternal countries. However, it was stressed during the conversation, bilateral and multilateral cooperation within the CEMA framework still has many reserves.

The MSZMP general secretary visited Uzhgorod University. He inquired, in particular, about the preparation of teachers for schools functioning in the oblast which teach Hungarian, and about the activity of a center of Hungarian studies, and talked to academic and creative workers, and activists of the Hungarian Culture Society.

K. Grosz spoke at a meeting with representatives of the working people of the oblast. He pointed out that his trip to Transcarpathia is a result of the meeting with M.S. Gorbachev, which took place recently in Moscow. It is symbolic that it is occurring on the eve of the 44th anniversary of the liberation of Hungary from fascist oppression, when the memory of Soviet soldiers and the sons of other peoples who fell for the freedom of our country is being honored everywhere. Our similar fates obliges us to take care of all the values of our friendship through joint efforts, and to develop and improve the model of cooperation which has been formed.

We have come to our neighbors and friends, K. Grosz said. We have been convinced that the Hungarians living here feel themselves to be citizens of the USSR with full rights. Restructuring and the confirmation of the Leninist nationalities policy gives concrete substance to the rights of national minorities.

The guest also visited Beregovskiy rayon. At the rayon party committee he was told about the socioeconomic development of the rayon, the experience accumulated here in the internationalist education of the working people, and about the multifaceted ties with the brothers from the neighboring Szabolcs-Szatmar County of Hungary.

K. Grosz also visited Mukachevo.

Visits Sub-Carpathian region

LD0304221689 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] After Zahony, Karoly Grosz visited the Soviet Union's Sub-Carpathian region. Before Karoly Toth's latest despatch, let me just say that for decades no Hungarian party leader of such high rank has visited this region.

[Toth] As he stressed at his nearly 40 minutes-long discussion with Genrikh Bandrovskiy, the region's first secretary, he considers his visit as the practical realization of the topics raised at the meeting of the general secretaries in Moscow. He naturally briefed the host about the social, economic, and political processes in Hungary, as well as about the party's activity.

Karoly Grosz paid a visit to the University of Uzhgorod, to the center for Hungarian studies, and he held a discussion with university teachers and representatives of the Hungarian-Soviet Friendship Society and the Cultural Association of Hungarians.

After this Karoly Grosz held an aktiv, which was anticipated with great interest. We quote from his thoughts:

[Begin Grosz recording] It is our conviction that the nationalities represent the firm pillars of a stable bridge which facilitate the rapprochement of peoples, of nations. In this faith we reject every form of nationalism, of bragging with the values of Magyardom, and we support the cause of the friendship of peoples. You know it well that the Hungarian People's Republic has no territorial demand vis-a-vis any neighboring country. The neighboring peoples understand our intentions, which meet with reciprocation in the leadership of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Austria. [end recording]

[Toth] After the aktiv, the party general secretary inspected the Mukachevo Castle, then the visit ended in Beregovoy.

Hungary's Grosz Meeting With ROK Minister Noted

PM0304162189 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Mar 89 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading: "Teletype"]

[Text] Budapest, 30 Mar—K. Grosz, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, today received here South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, who is in Hungary at the invitation of Hungarian Foreign Minister P. Varkonyi.

Report on MSZMP Central Committee Plenum

PM0304152389 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Mar 89 Second Edition p 6

[TASS report: "MSZMP Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] Budapest, 30 Mar—An information report on the 29 March Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] Central Committee plenum has been published here.

After hearing the report from K. Grosz, general secretary of the MSZMP, on the results of his talks with M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the MSZMP Central Committee pointed out that the talks helped to strengthen trust and mutual understanding between the two parties. Agreement was expressed on the main issues of international life. The meeting between the CPSU and MSZMP leaders offered new opportunities for the development of multifaceted Soviet-Hungarian cooperation.

The report points out that since the adoption of the present law on the press in Hungary there have been perceptible changes in the economic and social spheres and for that reason the law cannot serve its purpose. The new law on information is to legally enshrine freedom of expression and the guarantees and framework of press freedom.

The MSZMP Central Committee defined the main principles of policy in the sphere of the press and the tasks connected with the leadership of the party press. It was noted in this regard that the party is striving to develop proper relations with all organs of the press which are prepared for cooperation while respecting their independence.

The plenum heard reports on the renewal of the activity of the Hungarian Communist Youth League and on the celebration in the country of 15 March—the anniversary of the 1848-1849 revolution.

The plenum considered some organizational matters. M. Szuros was released from his duties as secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee and also as leader of the communist deputies' parliamentary group in connection with his election to the post of president of the Hungarian National Assembly. The leadership of the communist deputies' parliamentary group was temporarily entrusted to K. Grosz.

Moscow Delegation Leaves for Budapest

LD0304120289 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] A delegation from the Soviet capital, headed by Saykin, chairman of the Moscow city executive committee, left Moscow for Hungary today. It will take part in the opening of Moscow Days in Budapest.

CSSR's Hrivnak Holds Moscow Talks With Gusev

LD0104133189 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1130 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Pavel Hrivnak, Czechoslovak first deputy premier, had talks in Moscow with Vladimir Gusev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, on trade and economic relations between the two countries and on problems of environmental protection. Special attention was paid to improving economic mechanisms, introducing modern technologies, increasing the production of consumer goods, and also cooperating in the production of chemical and microbiological substances. Pavel Hrivnak was taking part in Moscow in the 2-day session of the CEMA Committee for Scientific-Technical Cooperation.

Petrovskiy Confers With SFRY Ambassador

PM0304125989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 89 Evening Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Petrovskiy has received M. Veres, SFRY ambassador to the USSR. An exchange of opinions took place on questions of strengthening the role of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement in ensuring all-embracing international peace and security. Matters relating to holding an information forum in London in line with the accord reached at the Vienna CSCE meeting were also touched on.

Events Related to Disturbances in Kosovo Reviewed

Serbian Constitution Amended

PM0304105389 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Mar 89 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent Ye. Vostrukhov report: "Deputies Voting, Separatists Shooting"]

[Text] Belgrade—In the capital's "Sava" Palace of Congresses, as the Belgrade press unanimously agrees, a most important event has taken place in the political life of not only Serbia but the whole Yugoslav Federation. Deputies in the republic's Federal Assembly have adopted fundamentally important amendments to the Socialist Republic of Serbia Constitution. These amendments were earlier approved by the Federal Assemblies of the autonomous provinces incorporated in Serbia—Vojvodina and Kosovo.

So what is the fundamental significance of the amendments? As a unified, integral republic, Serbia is now guaranteed equal state powers throughout its territory. These powers extend to defense issues, international cooperation, public education, and the legal system. Hitherto, the autonomous provinces could be exempt from some republic laws. This has damaged Serbia's integrity, the rational development of its economy, culture, and science, and the coordination of actions with other republics. People in Belgrade believe that the amendments to the constitution are a condition of solving the prolonged political crisis in Kosovo. These amendments do not impinge on the vital interests of the province's Albanian population.

As was to be expected, Albanian nationalists and separatists in Kosovo are opposed to the changes in the Serbian Constitution. This time the extremists have not confined themselves to provocative demonstrations and strikes. For the first time in the whole history of the Kosovo events, firearms have been used against the public safety and militia forces. In the city of Podujevo, E. Kuci, chief of a militia department, an Albanian by nationality and father of four children, has been killed. Inspector Z. Korac has been seriously injured. In the city of Titova-Mitrovica militiaman M. Tanaskovic has been killed. The total number of casualties has already risen above 20.

The authorities have responded decisively, within the framework of the special measures introduced in the territory of Kosovo by the SFRY Presidency. Tanks are now standing in the central streets of Podujevo and

combat helicopters are patrolling the skies. One of them came under fire from the ground, but the crew was able to land the helicopter successfully at the airfield.

According to the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs, the actions of the separatists in Kosovo are now characterized by a high degree of organization, escalating violence, and acts of vandalism. A curfew has been imposed in Kosovo. All public events are prohibited and studies in schools and the university have been stopped.

The criminal actions have been condemned at a meeting of the political aktiv in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo. Its leadership has taken measures to defuse the situation, which has been described as extremely tense and serious. So far, the efforts of members of the aktiv, the League of Communists of Yugoslavia Provincial Committee, and other social organizations have failed to produce any noticeable results. According to a statement distributed by TANJUG: "The demonstrations have been conceived, organized, and conducted by counterrevolutionary forces and are directed against the constitutional order and the policies of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia."

The tension in the province still shows no sign of abating.

Official Meets With Journalists

PM0304134589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Mar 89 Second Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Tense Situation"]

[Text] Belgrade, 30 Mar—All the country's efforts are currently mobilized for the solution of economic problems in the Kosovo Autonomous Province and the restoration of the normal production process there, A. Mitrovic, deputy chairman of the Yugoslav Government, stated at a meeting here with foreign journalists. We regret, he stressed, that it has not been possible to avoid clashes between the militia and demonstrators. Law enforcement personnel have been instructed to use weapons only if subjected to violence. We shall use every means to safeguard territorial integrity and constitutional order in our country.

The situation in Kosovo remains tense. By decision of the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs new militia and security subunits have been transferred there. A curfew is in force, mass gatherings on the street have been banned, and educational establishments, cinemas, and markets are closed. The law on nationwide defense, which provides for the introduction of compulsory labor [trudovaya povinnost], has begun to be implemented.

The SFRY Presidency and the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] Central Committee Presidium held a joint session at which they outlined measures to protect the constitutional system and public order, safeguard the security of all citizens and of public property, reinforce the work of all state organs and institutions, and gradually normalize the the situation in the province. It was pointed out that it is necessary to intensify ideological and political work by the LCY and to activate all socialist forces in the country.

Two Militiamen Killed

PM0304124589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 89 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "About the Situation in Kosovo"]

[Text] Belgrade, 1 Apr—Recent events in the Kosovo Autonomous Region constitute a hostile action against constitutional order and the SFRY's territorial integrity from positions of Albanian nationalism. This is the assessment of the situation in the country's southwest by the Presidium of the Federal Conference of the Socialist Alliance of Working People of Yugoslavia, which resolutely supported the special measures taken by the SFRY Presidency to protect public order and the inviolability of citizens' property in Kosovo.

This leadership organ of the largest sociopolitical organization in Yugoslavia noted that the acute aggressive actions undertaken by nationalists in the region are aimed at splitting the country and launching a civil war. History will sharply condemn these hostile acts.

According to the Kosovo Federal Assembly's (parliament's) assessment, all recent events in the autonomous region are a continuation of the illegal "Albanian Liberation Movement" organization, which was created back in 1958 and whose leaders tried, regardless of consequences, to bring as many people as possible out into the city streets.

Kosovo's Deputy Secretary for Internal Affairs Rajko Calovic told journalists that 2 militiamen were killed, 9 were seriously injured, and 112 were slightly injured during clashes between law enforcement organ staffers and rampaging young people. Twenty-two demonstrators were also killed, and 98 suffered injuries of differing severity. As a result of disturbances in various population centers in Kosovo, 5 militia vehicles were burned and 25 cars and 26 buses were destroyed. Some 250 people have either been disciplined or have had legal proceedings instituted against them.

It is officially reported that 174 labor collectives with a total labor force of 49,101 people—about 1 in every 5 working people in the autonomous region—have been on strike in Kosovo.

According to R. Calovic, the curfew in the region will not remain in force much longer and will be lifted as soon as conditions are ripe for this. Unfortunately, he emphasized, militia detachments were forced to use firearms in self-defense.

According to POLITIKA EKSPRES, "the emissaries of counterrevolution are not calming down and continue to incite citizens of Albanian nationality to commit fresh illegal acts." In the newspaper's opinion, the situation in the region is now much more serious than in 1981.

Plenum Held

PM0404092589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Apr 89 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Alarming Days for Kosovo"]

[Text] Belgrade, 2 Apr—The internal political situation in Kosovo Autonomous Province, which is part of Serbia, has acquired a dramatic nature since the recent demonstrations by local Albanian nationalists.

The provocative demonstrations, whose participants used firearms, openly opposed the measures of the lawful state organs and showed that these actions were aimed at undermining the SFRY's territorial integrity and constitutional order. This was stated at the Saturday [1 April] plenum of the Kosovo Province League of Communists Committee which examined the situation in the province and the party organization's tasks to normalize it.

Rajko Calovic, Kosovo deputy secretary for internal affairs, told journalists that during the clashes between the law enforcement organ workers and the rampaging thugs 2 militiamen were killed, 9 were seriously injured, and 112 were slightly injured. Some 22 demonstrators also died and 98 people received injuries of varying gravity.

The events in the province, the plenum noted, have exposed the local bureaucracy's link with the nationalists and separatists with a view to isolating Kosovo from Serbia and Yugoslavia. To achieve this goal, this "alliance" has stopped at nothing, not even at threatening the lives of the miners at the "Stari Trg" mine and using firearms. One reason for the eruption of nationalist demonstrations was the opportunism, dilatoriness, and lack of resolve in the activity of the province's leading organs and party organization. Inflammatory items in some press organs played their part.

The aid and support of the entire country is of important significance for normalizing the situation in the province, said R. Morina, president of the province League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] Presidium, who spoke at the plenum. The province's creative intelligentsia must actively join the struggle against nationalism and it is essential to create a unified front of workers, young people, and all citizens. It is inspiring that the nationalists and separatists have met with no support among the broad masses of inhabitants of Albanian nationality.

The plenum examined a number of organizational questions. It expelled from the ranks of the LCY former province party committee presidium members A. Vlasi, E. Arifi, and E. Gasi, and satisfied the request of K. Jasari, V. Zajic, and D. Seljmani that they be relieved of their duties as members of the province committee presidium.

TANJUG reports that in the past 24 hours no instances of nationalist demonstrations or the violation of public order have been noted in Kosovo and the SFRY Presidency measures to normalize the situation in the province are being consistently fulfilled.

Vorotnikov Greets Montenegro's Kostic on Election

LD0304235189 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 1900 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Vitaliy Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and member of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Presidium, sent a telegram of greetings to Branko Kostic in connection with the latter's election to the post of president of the Presidency of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro. I am sure that cooperation between the RSFSR and Montenegro will develop within the framework of Soviet-Yugoslav ties for the good of our countries, the telegram says, among other things.

West Europe

Yazov, French Defense Minister Begin Talks

Moiseyev Attends Talks

LD0304175689 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] French Defense Minister Chevenement arrived today in Moscow on an official visit, at the invitation of Army General Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense.

Today there was also a meeting between the ministers of defense of the USSR and France. Matters of mutual interest were discussed. Taking part in the discussion were, on the Soviet side, Army General Moiseyev, chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces and first deputy defense minister of the USSR, and other officials, and on the French side, Pagniez, ambassador of France to the USSR. The guest from France laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier at the Kremlin Wall. Army General Yazov held a luncheon in honor of Chevenement, French defense minister.

Disarmament Discussed

AU0304200289 Paris AFP in English 1937 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Moscow, April 3 (AFP)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement discussed the role of nuclear weapons in Europe with his Soviet counterpart General Dmitriy Yazov here Monday, a member of the French delegation said.

It was the first official visit to Moscow by a French defense minister in 12 years.

Gen. Yazov expressed doubts that the nuclear deterrent had maintained peace in Europe since the end of World War II. He stressed the dangers of nuclear energy in general, referring to the disastrous explosion of a nuclear reactor in a Soviet power station at Chernobyl, in the Ukraine, three years ago.

Gen. Yazov, in an apparent reference to France's refusal to discuss cutting its nuclear weapons until the United States and the Soviet Union halve their strategic arsenals, said France, Britain and China would have to enter U.S.-Soviet discussions eventually.

France left the integrated military command of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO) in 1966.

French officials in Paris said the itinerary of Mr. Chevenement, who arrived here Monday for a five-day visit, was the most comprehensive since former U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci visited the Soviet Union last August.

During his stay, Mr. Chevenement is to visit the Kola Peninsula on the Barents Sea in the northwestern Soviet Union, which houses a large complex of military bases including pens for half of the newest classes of Soviet nuclear submarines.

He will also tour Severomorsk, the headquarters of the Soviet Northern Fleet and home port for its major surface ships, comprising around one third of all Soviet warships.

During the visit, he will also have talks on conventional disarmament with Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov, French and Soviet sources said.

Chevenement Visit Furthers USSR-France Dialog

PM0304113589 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Apr 89 First Edition p 3

[APN correspondent D. Yakushkin article: "USSR-France: Military Dialog"]

[Text] The forthcoming visit by French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement cannot be considered a strictly protocol event.

The head of the French military department last travelled to Moscow in 1977. And the military contacts that existed between the two countries—exchange visits by warships and aircraft squadrons—were terminated at France's initiative following the introduction of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

The French minister is the first among his West European colleagues to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union. According to preliminary information, the visit's program promises to be full and interesting. Apart from meetings with Soviet political and military leaders, there are plans for visits to various military installations, combat equipment demonstrations, attendance at a tactical exercise, and a speech at the General Staff Academy.

Jean-Pierre Chevenement represents a country that has autonomous nuclear forces and adheres to the policy of "minimum nuclear deterrence." But the all-European process now under way on the continent inevitably raises the question of the correlation between European defense and European security. How will France's position evolve in this regard?

At Chevenement's initiative, next June deputies to the French National Assembly are due to discuss and adopt amendments to the existing law on military programs for 1987-1991. The parliamentary debate will show whether recent changes in the international arena will be taken into practical account. Formerly it was possible to refer to tension in the world when upholding various military programs, but this argument has now lost its weight. Especially since military programs suffer from great inertia and are calculated on a long-term basis.

The French minister will arrive in the USSR at a time when, in the general opinion of observers, France's foreign policy, including that on disarmament questions, is on the upswing. As we recall, 1989 began with the holding of the International Conference on Chemical Weapons in Paris. French diplomacy applied considerable efforts to ensure that it was fruitful. The conference's positive conclusion was assisted by the change of the French stance at the Geneva talks on chemical weapons, which hindered their progress for a long time.

France is also displaying interest in constructive developments at the talks on conventional arms in Europe and on confidence-building and security measures that have begun in Vienna. Despite the relative stepping up of ties with the NATO military organization—conduct of joint exercises, talks on joining the new air force command and control system—French officials still emphasize that France's stance on NATO remains unchanged.

According to both Soviet and French specialists who prepared the defense minister's visit, discussions during the Moscow talks should cover not only questions of resuming the old broken contacts between the two countries in the military sphere, but also of moving on to new and longer-term forms of cooperation. They could, for example, include exchange visits by chiefs of the armed forces general staffs and chiefs of staff from the different branches, as well as the holding of seminars attended by military specialists and theorists from both countries. Finally, why not organize exchanges of military academy students or lecturers? These options also merit examination. The "enemy image" must be gradually destroyed.

And even if Jean-Pierre Chevenement's visit fails to resolve all these questions, it will certainly mark the beginning of a new page in the history of Soviet-French dialog on security problems in the world and in Europe. It can already be perceived as a stage in the preparations for the Soviet-French summit meeting to be held in July 1989. High-ranking representatives of the French Defense Ministry with whom I had an opportunity to talk on the eve of J.-P. Chevenement's departure perceive this trip as a natural consequence of the development of Franco-Soviet contacts and ties.

Ireland Welcomes Gorbachev 'With Great Warmth'
PM0304155189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
4 Apr 89 First Edition p 4

[Correspondent T. Kolesnichenko dispatch: "An Important Landmark"]

[Text] Dublin, 3 Apr—The talks between M.S. Gorbachev and Irish Prime Minister C. Haughey and the problems that were discussed in the course of the Soviet-Irish summit meeting demonstrate that the principles of the new political thinking are becoming firmly established in the practice of international relations.

Topical questions of disarmament, the limitation and elimination of nuclear weapons, the solution of regional conflicts (especially in the Near East), and environmental protection—in brief, everything that was formerly considered the prerogative of "superpowers"—became the topic of discussion during the meeting in Shannon. As both leaders emphasized during the meeting with journalists, the talks proceeded successfully, with similar or common positions emerging on many issues.

Being equal partners in the solution of global problems, Ireland and the USSR as European states can cooperate that much more actively in the building of the "all-European home." M.S. Gorbachev especially emphasized this aspect when replying to journalists' questions. He noted that it is time for all states on our continent, with involvement by the United States and Canada, to immediately impose order in their home.

Attention also focused on bilateral relations between the USSR and Ireland, primarily the development of mutually advantageous trade and economic cooperation. It was pointed out here that a group of Irish ministers will soon arrive in Moscow to examine specific questions raised during the talks in Shannon.

Ireland welcomed the Soviet leader with great warmth. It can be said that all the last few days here were "Russian." The country's major newspapers devoted their pages almost completely to material about the Soviet Union and its domestic and foreign policy. The same topic was covered by television programs. And the newspaper THE SUNDAY PRESS carried a banner headline in Russian all across its front page: "Ireland Welcomes Mikhail Gorbachev."

M.S. Gorbachev did not spend more than 2 hours on Irish soil. But almost 300 journalists from different countries of the world arrived here to cover this visit for the press and television. Many languages could be heard in the Shannon press center. Shannon seemed to become an international center linking East and West. It must be said that the Irish are openly proud of this. Moreover, there are already plans to turn Shannon into a permanent location for meetings and talks on the development of East-West relations. Thus, the Soviet leader's visit to Ireland became not only an important landmark in Soviet-Irish relations, but also a boost to the development of broad international cooperation.

Latin America & Caribbean

Further Reportage on Gorbachev's Visit to Cuba

Gorbachev Arrives; Meets Press
LD0304205689

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1430 GMT on 3 April, in its regular "Vremya" newscast, broadcasts a report by correspondent Igor Fesunenko on Mikhail Gorbachev's arrival at Havana Airport. The video shows crowds waving flags while the aircraft lands and taxis to a halt. Castro and other Cuban officials are shown walking out to meet Gorbachev as he descends from the aircraft. He is followed by Raisa Gorbacheva, Shevardnadze, Kamentsev, and Yakovlev. Gorbachev is heard saying: Fidel, they are asking to take a photograph. Castro's response, in Spanish, is inaudible, and Gorbachev then says: "Of course. We were delayed 45 minutes in Moscow today [as heard], because there was a snowstorm; we couldn't take off."

Fesunenko notes USSR Ambassador Petrov among the welcoming party, and Gorbachev is heard to say: "What are we going to do now?" The anthems of the two countries are played, and guns fired; the honor guard presents his report, and Gorbachev inspects the guard as the band plays. Castro presents Cuban leaders and diplomats, and the crowds are seen waving flags and shouting: Viva! The guard of honor marches past, and Castro and Gorbachev get into an open car, and the cortege sets off for the city. The two leaders are shown waving to crowds who line the streets.

On their arrival in Havana, the following exchanges take place between Gorbachev, Castro and journalists:

[Gorbachev] "Good day."

[Journalist] "Tell us, please, what are your first impressions."

[Gorbachev] "[word indistinct], staggering impressions. I have told Fidel that we have already met the people of Cuba. Everything is clear here. Our friendship is in the hearts, in the soul, on the faces. Now it remains for us to talk. There are things for us to talk about."

[Journalist] "What have you already spoken about?"

[Gorbachev] "For the moment, we have mainly been exchanging impressions along the way. Then I want to tell the Cubans, express my enormous feelings of gratitude for this meeting, for the openness of hearts, for the enthusiasm and affection you have shown. this is so important for our people, and I am now saying for Soviet television and radio, that we have found ourselves in the embrace of friends. This is splendid."

[Castro, in Spanish fading into superimposed translation] "I don't think there has been any other state figure here in Havana who has attracted so many journalists, and never has there been such a mass of people meeting our guests. This, better than anything else, shows what interest your arrival has stimulated, Comrade Gorbachev."

[Gorbachev] "It's true, I am pleasantly staggered by this welcome, by such a show of a flood of feeling. I am probably not saying anything new, that our country, all of our people greatly cherish friendship, strong and sincere, which has already lasted through the years, times, including hard times, tried and tested—everything here is clear. And that's good, that's the main thing."

Fesunenko continues his report, saying that replying to a question concerning the significance of this visit to Cuba for the other countries of Latin America, Comrade Gorbachev said:"

[Gorbachev] "I know that over the past few years I have had a great many meetings with representatives of the Latin American continent. We had very important conversations. It seems to me that this continent is coming out on to the broad highway of historical development. Just look at what processes are getting under way. Just a little more, and I'm sure that the processes of democracy will intensify and gain in strength. they are already unfolding. Giants of the future are taking shape here. I think that this continent has a great future ahead of it."

Fesunenko notes that Fidel castro invited Comrade Gorbachev into his residence for a brief conversation. The video shows Gorbachev sitting with Castro, and surrounded by journalists. The report ends with Gorbachev saying: "I see healthy people, with a good attitude. Some of them can jump so high! It makes you envious! Well, young people [words indistinct]. Strong voices. You know, we understand that there are decades standing behind this, of relations with foreign peoples, this enormous path that (?you have traversed together). [words indistinct] You can be congratulated on this [words indistinct], all of the comrades who are (?here), and I congratulate you."

Greeted in 'Joyful Atmosphere'

LD0304203589 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1445 GMT 3 apr 89

[From "The World Today" program presented by Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Text] Throughout the day reports and dispatches have been coming in from Cuba—so far away, yet so close to us all—on the arrival on the Island of Freedom of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. Here is a dispatch we have received from our Cuban colleagues. I think it graphically conveys the joyful atmosphere with which the Cubans are greeting the Soviet leader. [video shows cortege of vehicles in streets lined with cheering crowds with Gorbachev and Castro standing in an opentopped vehicle]

Incidentally, the Western journalists, of whom there are an awful lot in the Havana press center at the moment, acknowledge this in their reports. A DPA correspondent, for example, reports that 600,000 Cubans organized a triumphant meeting for Gorbachev during his first visit to one of the Latin American countries. I think that similar acknowledgements from other Western journalists deserve to be commented on since on the eve of the visit some of them speculated at considerable length about certain divergences and contradictions allegedly existing between Cuba and the Soviet Union. [video shows journalists at work in press center.]

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, one of the Cuban leaders, caught, literally redhanded, the correspondent of the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI, who had quite simply distorted his interview.

Of course, there is no shortage of problems in relations between our countries and in their cooperation connected with the specifics of their development and as yet unused reserved. It is these problems that are to be discussed during the days Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is in Cuba. Particular attention is being given to the speech he is to make tomorrow in the Cuban Parliament from where a live television relay has been announced.

Lays Wreath at Marti Memorial

LD0304203289 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Apr 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast; report over video by television correspondent Ye. Fateyev—identified by screen caption]

[Text] The main square in Havana is Revolution Square. It is where mass demonstrations by the working people of the Cuban capital are held. The square's architectural ensemble is crowned by the memorial complex to Jose Marti, the poet, thinker, and a great son of the Cuban people, who fell in the fighting for the liberation of his homeland against the colonialist yoke at the end of the last century. [video shows aerial and ground-level shots of the square including the Marti memorial]

The official part of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's visit began this morning with a visit to Revolution Square. Together with him were comrades Shevardnadze, Yakovlev, Kamentsev, and Petrov, USSR ambassador to the Cuban Republic. The Soviet guests were accompanied by Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders. [video shows Gorbachev, Castro, and entourage entering the square]

The state anthems of the Republic of Cuba and the Soviet Union were played. A wreath was laid at the foot of the 18-meter marble monument. Alongside is the 112-meter tower which from above looks like a five-pointed star. The Soviet leader adjusted the ribbon with the inscription: Jose Marti, national hero of the Republic of Cuba, from Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. [video shows Gorbachev and Castro stand at attention as anthems are played; goosestepping troops carry wreath to memorial; shot of memorial; Gorbachev adjusts ribbon on wreath]

There was a minute's silence as a sign of the memory and the deep respect of the Soviet people for a man who was a legend, who became for the whole of Latin America a symbol of devotion to the causes of freedom, equality, and fraternity. [video shows Castro and Gorbachev stand at attention]

Raisa Maksimovna Gorbacheva laid flowers at the foot of the monument.

Revolution Square is the political center of the country. Situated within it is the complex of buildings housing the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, the State Council, and the Council of Ministers of the republic.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, Fidel Castro, and the persons accompanying them set off for the Palace of the Revolution. It is here that Soviet-Cuban talks began between the delegations which are being held in a fraternal, and cordial atmosphere, which is typical of relations between our two countries. [video shows entourage enter the palace; shot of both sides at talks surrounded by a host of cameramen]

Official Talks Begin

FL0304183789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Official talks between the delegations of the USSR and Cuba began at the Revolution Palace today at 1030. The Soviet delegation is chaired by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and composed of Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Politburo and foreign minister; Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the CPSU Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Yuriy Petrov, ambassador of the USSR to Cuba; V. Boldin, chief of the General Department of the Central Committee; G. Shakhnazarov, aide to the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; R. Fedorov, first deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee; V. Komplektov, deputy foreign minister; O. Darusenkov, sector chief in the International Department; Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Information Administration of the USSR; and S. Armayev, counselor of the president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The following were present for the Cuban part: Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers; Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces; Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers; and Jorge Risquet, Osmani Cienfuegos, and Julio Camacho Aguilera, members of the PCC Politburo. Also present were Rosa Elena Simeon, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences; Carlos Aldana Escalante, secretary of the PCC Central Committe; Isidoro Malmierca, foreign minister; Jesus Montane Oropeza, aide of the commander in chief; Rafael Polanco, first deputy chief of the General Department of the Foreign Relations Department of the Central Committee; and Luis Felipe Vazquez, chief of the USSR Section in the PCC Central Committee.

Shevardnadze, Kamentsev Hold Meetings

LD0404095989 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Within the framework of the summit visit under way in Cuba, a conversation was held in Havana on 3 April between Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR minister of foreign affairs; Kamentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers; and Rodgriguez, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee, vice president of the Council of State and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba. Also taking part in the conversation was Malmierca, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the Republic. Under discussion were matters concerning the state of and prospects for Soviet-Cuban economic and commercial cooperation as well as the enhancement of stability and effectiveness in this cooperation. A thorough exchange of views on a number of key issues relating to the contemporary international situation took place.

On the same day Yakovlev, Politburo member and CPSU Central Committee Secretary, met with Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PCC Central Committee. Under discussion were matters relating to cooperation between the fraternal parties in the sphere of their bilateral and other foreign relations, the quest for paths to a political settlement to conflicts in the world, the securing of a just and democratic world order, and the resolution of problems of development. The conversations, which passed in a spirit of cordiality and comradely mutual understanding, evinced a high degree of coincidence of evaluations and approaches to resolving the matters under discussion.

Gorbachev Lays Wreath at Lenin Monument

LD0304204389 Moscow TASS in English 2036 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Havana, April 4 TASS—On Monday afternoon Mikhail Gorbachev and Fidel Castro visited the Lenin Park. The park with an area of 670 hectares is the favourite recreation zone of Havana residents. A pioneer palace named after Ernesto Che Guevara, one of the biggest in the country, is also located there.

The Lenin Monument, the first in the Western hemisphere, was built in the park. The white marble monument weighing 60 tons that resembles by its shape an unfolded banner looks especially impressive when it is lit by the bright tropical sun. Fidel Castro's words are carved on the lower part of the monument: "Lenin has been from the very beginning not only a theoretician, but also a man of action, a man of continuous, never stopping practical actions". The monument was created by well-known Soviet sculptor Lev Kerbel and by Cuban architect Antonio Quintana who also designed the Lenin Park.

The national anthems of Cuba and the USSR were played. The Soviet leader laid a wreath with the inscription on its ribbon "To the great Lenin from M.S. Gorbachev".

Gorbachev, Castro Tour Exposition

LD0304222289 Moscow TASS in English 2210 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Havana April 4 TASS—By TASS special correspondents:

Mikhail Gorbachev toured Expocuba, a permanent exhibition illustrating Cuba's social and economic advances, during the second day of his visit here.

The exhibition grounds with their 24 pavilions were opened just three months ago, in time for the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution in January.

It has since been visited by more than 400,000 people, a fact graphically illustrating the interest shown in it by both Cubans and foreign tourists.

Gorbachev, Fidel Castro and accompanying officials visited the central pavilion. The pride of place at the stands nearest to the entrance there is held by exhibits highlighting scientific and technical achievements.

Cuba, where practically no research was conducted before the revolution, now has 28,000 specialists in various fields of learning working in its 143 scientific centres.

One exhibit is a microanalytical system called Suma, which has been developed by a Cuban research centre for clinical blood analyses.

One such system was taken along by a Cuban doctor team leaving for Armenia last December to give help to victims of a devastating earthquake there. The same plane took a large consignment of blood plasma to the Soviet Transcaucasian Republic.

Yuriy Romanenko and Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez, who performed a joint flight aboard the Soviet spaceship Soyuz-38 in September 1980, are called space brothers in Cuba. Another stand in the central pavilion, which is devoted to cooperation between the two countries in space, features instruments devised by Cuban scientists to analyse the cosmonauts' physical fitness. The instruments acquitted themselves creditably during the space brothers' mission.

Expocuba puts much emphasis on the sugar industry, one of the key economic branches in cuba. Exhibits make it possible to follow the entire production cycle in the industry—from sugar cane selection to the recycling of by-products.

Visitors can see the full range of machines used to grow and harvest cane. However, the main potential "exhibits" illustrating Soviet-Cuban cooperation in this field won't fit even into the spacious pavilions of Expocuba: they include a cane harvester factory, eight new and dozens of modernised sugar plants, and an institute created with Soviet assistance, which designs facilities for the sugar industry.

Castro Hosts Official Reception

LD0404022489 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0215 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Havana, 4 Apr (TASS)—On the evening of 3 April, Fidel Castro held an official reception in honor of M.S. Gorbachev and his wife, at which the members of the Soviet delegation, members of the party and state leadership of Cuba, representatives of the public, and heads of diplomatic missions were present.

Gorbachev's 3 Apr Activities Reviewed

LD0404030289 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0209 GMT 4 Apr 89

[From the "Mayak Panorama" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Ruvinskiy] The official, friendly visit to Cuba by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is continuing. We now have Havana on the line. I ask our correspondent to tell us about the progress of the visit and about the talks taking place.

[Unidentified correspondent] The talks started this morning. There was an exchange of views on questions of interest to both sides.

During the discussion of Soviet-Cuban relations, it was noted that they are of a longstanding, stable nature. But this does not mean that everything proceeds automatically.

In order for a tree to grow it is necessary to look after it. In this sense, the present visit is also useful. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev spoke in detail about the situation in our country, about the elections which took place in the USSR, which have become a touchstone of restructuring. The Soviet people have voted for changes.

When the situation in Latin America was discussed, it was noted that Cuba's role on that continent is growing.

At a briefing for journalists, the official spokesman of the Soviet delegation, Gennadiy Gerasimov, said that the conversation passed off in an exceptionally friendly atmosphere and at the end of the meeting there was even an expression of regret that the time set aside for it had gone by so quickly.

Well, during the second half of the day, the talks and the conversations continued. Problems of disarmament and questions of Soviet-Cuban economic relations and others were discussed.

Well, at the start of this broadcast there was a report on the visit by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to the permanent exhibition of Cuba's social and economic achievements. Here are a few details: This exhibition is called Expocuba. During the 2 hours the guests spent there, they managed to familiarize themselves with only 5 pavilions out of the 23. But this is also not surprising. In order to fully look round the central pavilion alone it is necessary to walk a distance of almost 2 km. Many explanations during the walk-around were given by Fidel Castro himself. [Castro's voice speaking in Spanish heard in background]

Mikhail Sergeyevich acquainted himself with the output of Cuban metallurgical and machine-building enterprises, enterprises of the electronic industry, including those making goods which will be exported to the Soviet Union. He spent a lot of time in the central pavilion, whose stands are devoted to Cuba's achievements in science and technology, education, public health, sports, and culture.

In the evening Comrade Fidel Castro gave an official reception in honor of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and his wife.

Now it is late evening in Havana, just after 2200. The second day of the visit has ended.

The main events of the third day are the completion of the talks and the signing of joint documents, and an address by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev at the festive meeting of the National Assembly of Cuba's people's power.

[Ruvinskiy] Thank you Havana. This was a live broadcast.

Gorbachev Interviewed on Visit

LD0404095189 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In an interview he granted to Soviet television Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev spoke about the course of the visit. He remarked:

[Begin recording] [Gorbachev] You know, it has made a great impression. We've been here only 24 hours and it was yesterday's meetings that made the greatest impression. We know how people in our country regard Cuba, the Cuban Revolution, Fidel, and all our Cuban friends, but yesterday we could sense how the Cubans regard our people and us. Intensive, almost uninterrupted talks are underway with Fidel and the comrades. We are taking advantage of any opportunity. In my opinion, a third of the talks are taking place in the car. There is great agreement and I would say a most interesting conversation on the most burning issues of the world today. Everything's fine.

[Unidentified correspondent] Excuse me, Mikhail Sergeyevich, don't you think that the ideas encompassed by what we call the policy of new thinking and of which you spoke in New York, are for Cuba at the moment—well, in order perhaps to discharge the international atmosphere around Cuba a little—most appropriate and timely?

[Gorbachev] This topic, you know, is a central one for Fidel and me, as we are talking about the modern world and the great changes that are taking place in it. We are talking of the fact that, while they have not yet acquired full strength, positive trends and changes for the better are now developing and, of course, the Socialist countries have made a great contribution to this and, I think, our own contribution, that of the Cubans and of the Soviet Union, is here, too. However, I have to say—and we have also spoken of this, and this is very important—we can sense today that our partners in the West also have great understanding, not to mention broad public circles. In general it can be sensed that throughout the world aspirations are increasing for better relations and I think that both the Soviet Union and Cuba are aware of their responsibility and their role and will, as always, rise to the occasion and play their role. [end recording]

Gorbachev Visits Construction Site

LD0404144489 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1430 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Havana, 4 Apr (TASS)—Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who is in Cuba on an official friendly visit at the invitation of Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and chairman of the State Council and the Council of ministers of the Republic of

Cuba, today visited one of the new construction districts in the Cuban capital. The Soviet leader met the residents who have united in small teams to build houses for themselves.

Mikhail Gorbachev was accompanied by Fidel Castro Ruz.

Gerasimov Addresses News Conference on Visit

Relations 'Of Trust' Developing

LD0404053689 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0400 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] As we have already reported, a press center in Havana is covering the visit to Cuba of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. Yesterday a news conference was held for journalists presently accredited in the Cuban capital. In his speech, Comrade Gerasimov, chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly said:

[Begin Gerasimov recording] The official talks began after Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev laid a wreath at the monument to Jose Marti. There is no clear agenda at these talks. An exchange of views is taking place on those questions which interest both sides. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev began once more—he has already said this—by expressing those emotional feelings which gripped him yesterday during the arrival in Havana.

He said that yesterday still stands uppermost in his mind, how Havana warmly met the Soviet guest. Incidently, Fidel Castro noted—I think that he also said this at the square—that "of course we invited the people of Havana to this meeting. One can organize an invitation but one cannot organize joy."

Then they shifted to discussing the nature of our relations, that our relations are of a steadfast nature, that they are already 30 years old; about when Cuba made its choice in favor of revolution, when it defended its revolution, and now when the development of the Cuban revolution is taking place.

That is: Our relations are of a fundamental nature. But that does not mean that everything is proceeding automatically. From time to time one needs to tend a tree for it to grow, and in this sense the present visit will also be useful. Apart from that, it is also obviously interesting for the fact that it now demonstrates in our changing world—in the world which is seeking ways to improve itself—the visit makes it possible to show that there can be equal relations at a high level between various countries which are far from each other on different continents; and between a large state and a small state with different histories. But nonetheless, Soviet-Cuban relations are developing at a very high level. They are relations of trust.

As you know, this is the first visit by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to a Latin America country. Quite a lot of time was devoted to discussing the situation on the continent; and the thought was expressed that our interest in how this continent is developing is beginning perfectly naturally with the first visit of the Soviet leader—namely, to Cuba, of all the Latin American countries. [end recording]

'Colossal' Debt, Drugs Discussed

LD0404064189 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Comments by Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at a news conference in Havana, Cuba, on 3 April—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] I have already said that part of the time spent in talks between Mikhail Gorbachev and Fidel Castro was devoted to the situation in Latin America. It would be possible to single out two particular problems there. One is the colossal debt of Latin American countries, the virtual robbery of these countries. And the second, also a very important problem is the drugs business. Certain countries in Latin America are turning into suppliers of drugs, for the North American market first and foremost, of course. But in the process of producing the drugs, they also become drug users themselves; and thus the problem is acquiring an exceptionally acute nature.

Thus, the situation in Latin America is exceptionally explosive. There was talk about Cuba's increased role in Latin America, the increase in its authority. This was stated by our side. This was shown in particular by Castro's recent trip to Mexico, Ecuador, and Venezuala. And the Soviet leader's visit to Cuba primarily has particular importance for the development of the situation in this region. Certain other factors were touched upon too.

This is approximately how the conversation went. I repeat, it took place in an exceptionally friendly environment, atmosphere. At the end of the meeting regret was expressed at how quickly the 2 hours had flown, and we had only begun the talks. These talks will be continued in keeping with the program that you know of.

Havana Talks Generate Interest in USSR-Cuba Ties

LD0404125589 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] The official friendly visit by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to Cuba is arousing intense interest throughout Latin America. Over to our correspondent in Havana:

[Unidentified correspondent] Journalists from papers, magazines, and the radios of other countries of the continent who were unable to come to Havana are telephoning their Cuban counterparts and are asking them to pass on information. What is the reason for this interest?

I spoke today to (Guillermo Torrero), president of the anti-imperialist tribunal, Our America. In his opinion this visit by the Soviet leader shows primarily yet again what relations can be like between a great power and a small country if they are based on the principles of mutual respect and friendship. We must not forget that other Latin American countries in the framework of capitalist society have to fight for such relations. Second, Soviet-Cuban cooperation in the economic sphere is regarded in the continent as being the new international economic order that has become one of the slogans in the struggle for the genuine independence of Latin America. Of course this relationship, based on justice and equality, attracts the attention of the Latin Americans. They can see that it is quite possible to establish them with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. In fact, this mainly explains the desire of a number of Latin American countries to get closer to us.

I believe there is another transient, but not unimportant, factor that must be noted. Much has been said recently in the Western media alleging that the Soviet Union and Cuba are moving apart, and that mutual understanding between them has worsened. They contrast our restructuring and the process in Cuba of correcting mistakes and negative trends. These processes are indeed not identical, and anti-Cuban propaganda tries to prove that for this reason Soviet-Cuban relations are becoming difficult. It is sometimes even amusing to hear how Cuba is accused of not copying restructuring. But it must be said that this propaganda is having an effect in Latin America too. So during his recent visits to Latin American countries journalists several times asked Comrade Fidel Castro questions on this subject. I personally remember one answer—it was more or less this—previously Cuba was blamed for being a Soviet satellite, and now for not copying the Soviet experience. Gentlemen, what is the aim of this?

The visit by Comrade Gorbachev shows clearly that if two countries are moving toward the same goal by different roads, this is not a reason for disagreement, it will by no means harm the mutual understanding between socialist countries, in this case between the Soviet Union and Cuba.

* Past, Present Soviet-Cuban Relations Viewed

18070179 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN
in Russian 28 Mar 89 p 3

[Article by Pavel Bogomolov, vice president of USSR-Latin America Association of Friendship and Cultural Ties: "The Roots of Friendship"]

[Text] Historians say that Columbus' first expedition, which discovered Cuba in particular, included Armenians...that subsequently the ancestors of the modern-day Latvians and Moldavians sailed here on Spanish galleons...that representatives of many of our country's nationalities in one way or another left their tracks on this tropical island, or, rather, on this archipelago consisting of 1,600 islands and islets, long before the victory of the Cuban revolution in 1959.

These tracks are sometimes quite marked as, for example, the archives of Pokhvistnev, the lieutenant in the tsar's service, whose dispassionate and at the same time literarily brilliant reports to Petersburg concerning the Spanish American War of 1898 even today would be to the credit of any researcher. But sometimes there are tracks that are fairly well hidden, such as those of the old woman, a White Russian emigre from the Cuban city of Baracoa who, according to eye-witness accounts, cursed Soviet power all her life, but shortly before her death suddenly...gave a large sum of money to the insurgents of Raoul Castro.

In a word, the cliche journalists were using here during the sixties that Moscow had extended an unselfish helping hand to a country we did not know at all, which was supposed to make the world see the USSR in a more noble position—this cliche is becoming obsolete. For actually we knew a great deal about Cuba. And not only because the Russian people fought for Cuba's freedom as early as the 19th century, but the boys from Havana fought on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War. The time has obviously come for us to recall without false confusion that the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] has been a militant and reliable detachment of the Komintern for a long time.

Ultimately we do not need the romantic flight of sensationalism with which certain Western authors still interpret the "unexpectedness of the anti-American gauntlet thrown down by N.S. Khrushchev in defense of far-off Cuba which was unknown to the Soviet until recently." Was the selfless and all-around assistance we rendered to the Island of Freedom soon after the victory of the Cuban revolution really not indicative in and of itself?

A recent Moscow symposium on the permanent lessons of the Caribbean crisis of 1962 convincingly elucidated a very important truth: at the beginning of the 1960's the people at the helm of foreign policy in both the USSR and the United States were by no means dilettantes or adventurers, although there was a certain shortage of common sense on both sides of the Atlantic. The nuclear missile confrontation occurred not at all because of anybody's poor idea of what was taking place in Cuba. On the contrary, both sides were, as it were, abreast of things. The root lay in something altogether different: The talented leaders of the two leading powers each in their own way had by that time not yet fully recognized the fundamental imperative of the nuclear age—the need for serious compromise for the sake of the survival of mankind.

Let us return, however, to our ideas about modern Cuba, a fraternal country with a population of 10 million which is constructing socialism in the immediate vicinity of the United States. Today it would seem that we know more about the workers of the Island of Freedom than ever before—tens of thousands of our specialists have visited there and more than 300,000 Cubans have acquired job

specialties because of the assistance from the USSR. Our cooperation, both bilateral and through the CEMA, is on such a broad scale that one can say without exaggeration that it affects all spheres of the lives of both countries. The reciprocal commodity turnover has run in to the billions of rubles a year. Cuban and Soviet citizens work together in the snowy Amur taiga and in space, in hospital operating rooms and on sugar plantations, and a the construction site of the first nuclear electric power station on the island, Juragua.

But here is what, in my opinion, is especially remarkable: While we have become close friends and partners, we, fortunately, do not impose on one another our views of the surrounding world, our customs, our spiritual predilections, or our everyday priorities. As a result one can observe a phenomenon that is rare for the Caribbean basin—the establishment of absolutely equal relations between a developing country and a leading power, relations that do not have the slightest encroachment on anyone's rights or traditions.

Unfortunately, and this must be admitted, in Cuba there are still many deficits, but there is no deficit of national pride. All one needs to is go out into the streets of Havana, Matanzas, or Santiago to be convinced of the obvious proud self-esteem of the Cubans. Once when with a group of journalists I was accompanying Fidel Castro and N.I. Ryzhkov on a journey through the nickel and cobalt deposits in the east of Cuba I asked the Cuban leader which conquest of the revolution he considers to be the most important. "The nation's newly acquired dignity," he answered confidently.

The originality of socialist Cuba and her proud adherence to her unrepeatable traditions and the behests of the heroes of the national liberation struggle dictate the need for a very attentive, cautious, solicitous attitude toward these concepts on the part of all foreigners visiting Havana. And since there are very many of our brothers among them, these words pertain to Soviet specialists above all. The Cubans' unique ethics, the unwritten codes of their life foundations and rules—all this should be for our agronomists, sailors, electric welders, or military specialists a no less important subject of study than the direct participation in work in Cuba.

It is even more important to correctly determine the concrete stage in the development of the first socialist state in the western hemisphere and to draw the necessary conciusions from this. For perhaps never before have the attempts on the part of bourgeois propaganda—which has the goal of estranging Havana from Moscow and causing a rift between the Cubans and their truest friend and ally—been so exhaustive and at the same time so large in scale. The air waves—Florida is close by—are literally filled with fabrications about an alleged "confrontation" between Moscow and Havana caused by the notion that the Cuban leadership do not like the restructuring and glasnost in the USSR. But do such conjectures have any serious foundation?

I have worked in Havana but I have never heard or read critical responses from the Cuban mass media concerning any of our films or journals, shows or concerts. I am well aware of the restrictions introduced by the Cuban leadership regarding individual labor activity, the closing of peasant markets, and the fairly restricted framework of social enterprisingness that exist at all Cuban enterprises. But does this mean that Cuba is against our perestroyka? This question is far from rhetorical.

"We have no ideological or political differences with Gorbachev," F. Castro recently assured us in Caracas. "He and I have different attitudes.... It is not that Cuba does not want openness but that our two countries are encountering different problems and therefore we are looking for different solutions."

I think that in these words lie a key to an understanding of the problem. For we must honestly recognize our unjustified, sometimes even painful inclination always to compare the decisions and steps of the leadership of the fraternal countries which are in different planes as though they were all at the same level of development. Since we have restructuring, let us give it to Cuba as well! And we frequently forget that socialist Cuba is not 70 years old but only 30. And while in the majority of European socialist countries the time has come for a decisive breakthrough in many areas of social life, our Cuban friends are engaged in something else: they are digging in their positions with the first conquests and are purging them of everything that is unnecessary, harmful, and contradictory to regional ideals—corruption, extravagance, and mismanagement. It is no wonder that the historical stage itself which began in Cuba after the third Congress of its ruling party is called the "process of correction of mistakes and elimination of negative tendencies."

It is precisely at this moment, which is interesting from both a theoretical and practical standpoint, that the Soviet leader is coming for a visit. And we should like very much for his negotiations with Castro and the agreements which are reached concerning the bilateral meetings to serve the cause of Soviet-Cuban cooperation and the coming together of our peoples in all ways.

When the Issue Was Being Typeset

Havana—in the Association of Cuban-Soviet Friendship there was an official presentation of the book published by the publishing house of political literature of the PCC Central Committee, "The New Stage of Restructuring," which is a collection of speeches of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee M. S. Gorbachev.

Restructuring in the Soviet Union is intended to strengthen socialism, declared editor in chief of the publishing house Anolan Agila at a solemn ceremony. Restructuring does not presuppose a departure from socialist principles of construction of a society or the peace-loving foreign policy of the Soviet Union. Its goal

and point are a revolutionary improvement of the socio-economic system. This is what is shown quite clearly, emphasized A. Agila, by the documents included in the current edition of the Soviet leader.

Cuba's Rafael Rodriguez on Gorbachev Policies

PA0404024289 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Statement by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, to unidentified Soviet reporters in Havana; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Cubans, a peace-loving people, cannot help but to recognize with deep understanding the efforts of Comrade Gorbachev, who leads the CPSU, to change the international situation through continued actions in Geneva, Reykjavik, New York, Washington, and Moscow. In line with the USSR policy of peace—traditional since the beginning of the revolution—that Lenin promoted in his well-known decree for peace, Comrade Gorbachev from the very beginning expressed the need to promote understanding among people, forsake confrontation, and foster an opportunity to democratize the world by the year 2000. All international circles have welcomed his ideas with deep respect, [words indistinct].

However, history has confirmed that reaching agreements is possible. Following the signing of the treaty on intermediate nuclear weapons by Gorbachev and Reagan, one can reach the conclusion that it is possible to make greater progress and advance even further. The USSR's stance on a 50-percent reduction of nuclear weapons is now accepted not only by all the people of the world, but by the U.S. Government, which recently talked about the need to begin to study this matter, in what seems to be a continuation of Reagan policies by the Bush administration.

Although some international factors lead me to think Bush has reservations regarding some fundamental aspects, he will not be able to get around the frank, open, democratic. and deeply human stance expressed by Comrade Gorbachev and the Soviet Government.

Costa Rica Hosts Foreign Ministers Meeting

LD3103120189 Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Managua March 31 TASS—By TASS correspondent Igor Pshenichnikov:

A two-day meeting of foreign ministers of five Central American states began this Thursday in the capital of Costa Rica under utmost security precautions. They are discussing the progress made so far in the fulfilment of the Salvador Agreement, providing primarily for the demobilization of Contra units in Honduras, formation of international teams to keep watch over the security of Central American states. The conference will also consider the democratisation commitments unilaterally assumed by the Nicaraguan side.

The meeting is being held in camera. Nevertheless, there is no reason to doubt that the Contra demobilization plan and the question of international observer teams are being debated keenly.

Contrary to the agreement reached by the Central American states to draw up a joint plan for disbanding and disarming the mercenary gangs, the United States has passed a decision to provide 45 million dollars worth of so-called "non- military" aid to the Contras up to February 1990. Some Central American states, obviously in contradiction to the Salvador agreement, have backed Washington's decision. This puts in question the document's immediate practicability. Nicaragua holds that the U.S. plan violates international law.

Disagreements over the mechanism for monitoring the security of Central American states may put up serious obstacles to the elaboration of a common Central American programme of actions to quickly ensure regional political stability. Nicaragua insists that international observer team, including representatives of Canada, FRG, Spain and one Latin american state, should be set up under U.N. aegis. Canada, FRG, and Spain have agreed to take part in them.

Costa Rica and El Salvador come out against "foreign participation" in monitoring regional stability. During the February summit meeting in El Salvador the two had started polemics with Nicaragua on this score, which is continuing to this day. Before the opening of the San Jose meeting, the Costa Rican foreign minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said that his country would strive for the formation of a regional monitoring mechanism "by the Central American states themselves".

The press conference, which the U.S. ambassador in Costa Rica Deane Hinton had arranged before the opening of the meeting was qualified by political analysts as "blackmail and a step that does not facilitate the achievement of mutual understanding among the parties to the San Jose meeting". The U.S. ambassador said with quite undiplomatic bluntness that the U.S. had a whole range of means to pressure Nicaragua. The United States, he noted, hopes, nevertheless, that there will be no need of resorting to them.

Honduran 'Armed Provocation' Against Nicaragua

LD0404005589 Moscow TASS in English 2332 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Managua April 4 TASS—For the 41st time this year, the Honduran military has committed an armed provocation on the border with Nicaragua, the Defense Ministry said in a communique Monday.

It said that Honduran troops opened machine-gun and mortar fire on a Sandinist Army frontier outpost in the La Piedra sector of Nueva Segovia Province.

Sandinist Army positions in the area of the village of Murupuchi in the same province came under fire from Honduran territory several times last week.

Nicaraguan frontier guards do not respond to armed provocations.

Nicaragua Delays Anti-Contra Offensive Until April
LD0404085389 Moscow TASS in English 0825 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Managua April 4 TASS—The Nicaraguan Government has decided not to resume offensive operations against the armed opposition for a month, until April 30.

The decisions means that the Contras again have an opportunity to lay down their arms and join peaceful reconstruction. At the same time the unilateral truce won't influence plans to strengthen Nicaraguan defence potential so that the republic could repulse Contras effectively, an official statement stressed.

The Sandinista government is displaying its goodwill and peaceful intentions and hasn't resumed offensive operations against the Contras since they were halted in March 1988.

Ecuadoran Cooperation Commission Meets in Quito
LD0304225689 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1723 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Quito, 3 Apr (TASS)—The third sitting of the intergovernmental Soviet-Ecuadorean Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation opened here today. A delegation of representatives of [word indistinct] foreign trade organizations and industrial associations, headed by V.S. Korolev, USSR deputy minister of foreign economic relations, are participating, and the Ecuadorean side includes leading figures of various ministries and departments, headed by Ernan Olgin, deputy minister of foreign affairs for bilateral relations.

Opening the sitting, Diego Cordovez, Ecuador's minister of foreign affairs, noted that it is taking place under new international conditions, in which the implementation of the process of detente that has begun as a result of the initiatives of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, is a particular feature.

Lukyanov Receives Ecuadoran Ambassador
LD0404120289 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Eduardo Santos Alvite, ambassador of the Republic of Ecuador, presented his credentials to Comrade Lukyanov in the Kremlin today. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the friendly character of Soviet-Ecuadoran relations and confirmed their readiness to further develop these relations.

Economic Ties With Colombia Discussed in Bogota
LD0104145189 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0750 GMT 01 Apr 89

[Text] Bogota, 1 Apr (TASS)—The fifth session of the mixed Soviet-Colombian commission on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation ended on Friday in the Colombian capital. During the course of the session the state of the prospects for the development of trade and economic relations between the Soviet Union and Colombia were discussed. On the Soviet side, the delegation at the talks was headed by V.S. Korolev the USSR deputy minister for foreign economic relations; and on the Colombian by Carlos Arturo Marulanda, minister of economic development.

The concluding document on the results of the session points out that in 1988 trade turnover between the USSR and Colombia increased in comparison with 1987. At the same time, it was established that the sides have not succeeded in reaching their aims in the sphere of the reciprocal supply of goods stipulated in the protocol signed by the USSR and Colombia in 1984. It was emphasized that relations between the USSR and Colombia are developing in a spirit of friendship and cooperation. Both countries also emphasized their aspiration to continue to expand bilateral trade, economic, scientific and technical links.

The Soviet delegation pointed out that in the course of the restructuring of the USSR's foriegn economic links, all ministries, state and cooperative enterprises of the country will, from 1 April this year, have the right to go out into the international market. This opens up new possibilities for the expansion of bilateral trade on an equal basis.

Both sides agreed that the next session of the mixed Soviet-Colombian commission will take place in Moscow in 1990.

Political & Social

Winning, Losing Candidates in Elections Reviewed

Gerasimov Upset in Leningrad

PM0304104589 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 31 Mar 89 p 1

[A. Tsekhanovich article: "'I Am Happy That I Can Choose....'"]

[Text] Leningrad—The elections in this okrug promised no surprises—the differences in the contenders' potential appeared too great. But then the ballot boxes were opened and the votes counted: It so happened that 145,274 people, more than 74 percent of those taking part, had voted for Yuriy Boldyrev, a young engineer, while his rival, whose victory had seemed more likely, had polled only 15 percent of the votes.

Whom to vote for in Leningrad's Moskovskiy Territorial Okrug—Anatoliy Gerasimov, first secretary of the Leningrad City Party Committee; or Yuriy Boldyrev, a rank-and-file communist, engineer at a scientific research institute, and Leninist Communist Youth League Committee secretary?

It would have been difficult even to conceive of such an alternative in past years! To choose between a person embodying party authority and a 28-year-old engineer, elevated to such a height—the height of national elections—on the wave of restructuring....

That is no mere rhetoric. In actual fact, Gerasimov could, according to all expectations, have remained the sole candidate on the ballot paper, such as Yu. Solovyev, oblast party committee first secretary. But people ran against Gerasimov, although no one expected that the okrug meeting would register anyone other than the first secretary.

Yuriy Boldyrev was the last candidate to mount the rostrum. And the first thing that he did before expounding his own program was to ask the presidium to rectify a blunder and read a note received from inhabitants of the rayon who had been unable to enter the hall (they did not have invitations). The chairman not only refused to to do this, but intimated that Boldyrev's actions were some sort of transgression. "All the promises are not worth a fig if we are unable to carry out out this small thing and read out the inhabitants' note!" Boldyrev said, and proposed reading out the note in the time allocated for his program. "We ask to be allowed in to take up the vacant seats...."—the note said. That was all.

There then occurred an incident which undoubtedly influenced the decision of the election meeting and which was to be assessed in the press from sharply differing standpoints. The Leningrad youth paper SMENA wrote that the audience had to rate the quality of the individual rather than the programs or the number of points presented, and that is why Yuriy Boldyrev won the delegates' confidence....

But you were soon able to read in other newspapers of Boldyrev's "high-handed" behavior—of that and nothing else! The candidate's statements, skillfully wrenched out of context, were interpreted accusatorily. He was allegedly in favor of molding our lives on the model of state power in the FRG (the candidate had the imprudence to speak approvingly of the parliamentary form of government). But the following idea was expressed most often: Boldyrev's plans are abstract and unrealistic. And not a single article voiced the least doubt regarding the second candidate.

Do we really still cling to the strongly entrenched view that legislative power in our country is exercised not by individuals, by actual people, but by their posts? If a person has a post, it means that that person as a deputy can do something, be useful somehow. While if he lacks this lever of power, he is simply incapable of changing anything.

That is perhaps why the election contest was conducted so trenchantly and not always, unfortunately, on equal terms.

New citizens' action groups took it upon themselves to even out, at least to some extent, the inequality of propaganda means available to the candidates. The growth in public activeness is now unstoppable. As the 26 March elections convincingly demonstrated, we can finally choose. We can do what we had gotten out of the habit of doing.

On the wave of this public and civic upsurge some people's hearts even... give out. The turmoil is so great!

This is no mere figure of speech. At the meeting where Gerasimov and Boldyrev were registered as candidate deputies Gennadiy Viktorovich Druzhinin, staffer at the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Limnology, mounted the rostrum, but he only managed to utter a few sentences, one of which was: "I am happy that I can choose...." He died from a heart attack.

I hope I may be forgiven by his relatives, whose grief cannot be compared with all our election campaign (what is more precious than a human life!), but I must write about this. Voter Druzhinin overstrained his heart, his ailing heart, on behalf of a great public cause. Perhaps there will be a new street sometime in Leningrad's Moskovskiy Rayon and we will name it for voter Druzhinin....

And may that street named for voter Druzhinin become a symbol for us all of our unshakable right to choose.

And on 26 March that choice was made, when by a majority of votes Yuriy Boldyrev was elected USSR people's deputy....

Solyvev Warns of Overdramatization

LD3103172289 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Leningrad March 31 TASS—By TASS Correspondent Vitaliy Tarasenko:

The head of the Leningrad region party organisation who failed to win the required number of votes to be elected to the new Congress of People's Deputies on March 26 believes that "one should not overdramatise the situation."

"One should be a realist and try and draw correct conclusions from the existing situation," maintains Yuriy Solovyev who gained 109,000 votes in a constituency inhabited by more than 400,000 Leningraders. 133,000 votes were cast against him.

The first secretary of the Leningrad Region Party Committee told TASS that "some Communists fear that the results of the elections will affect the prestige of the Leningrad party organisation.

These fears are groundless.

Firstly, the first secretary of the regional committee or any other party worker are not the entire party organisation.

Secondly, in the conditions of perestroyka, or restructuring, the party has consciously attracted the fire of criticism, but its prestige has only grown because of that."

The results of the voting show that many people are not satisfied with the course of perestroyka in Leningrad, Solovyev said. This means this process must be accelerated, corrections made and shortcomings rectified.

"A great deal of hard work is ahead. In this work, we count on assistance of the people's deputies, the more so, for they are all Communists.

I have no doubt that each one of them will be a worthy representative of Leningrad and the region in the country's supreme governing body," Solovyev said.

Elected Editor Yakovlev on Results

PM3103151689 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 29 Mar 89 p 2

["E.M." interview with MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI editor Yegor Yakovlev; date, place not given; first paragraph is an introduction]

[Text] Moscow—"For the first time people believed in themselves, in their own strength—the strength of the people. This is a lesson for everyone, especially the leaders. We shall see whether they manage to benefit from it, but one thing is certain: In a month-long election campaign many taboos have fallen and public awareness has taken a huge leap forward, and after these elections nobody can consider governing the USSR solely on the basis of authority, power, and command." This was said by people's deputy Yegor Yakovlev, elected to the new parliament of restructuring after years of battles as editor of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, the leading journal of Gorbachev's new course. With a Soviet leadership caught napping by the spectacular results that dealt a blow to the apparatus, stunned by Boris Yeltsin's public revolt and his display of strength, and numbed by the signals issued to the party from the country's vast provinces—from the Baltic to Siberia and Leningrad—Yakovlev's analysis confirms that the first act of restructuring is over. The reform granted and suggested by the government is flanked by a hitherto nonexistent public opinion, spawned by restructuring but to some extent autonomous in its options and decisions. "This is just the first step. In the fall, when the republican soviet elections take place, the stream could become a river."

[Interviewer] Yegor Yakovlev, the authorities seem still undecided how to assess this first election of the restructuring period, following the explosion of an electoral protest against the candidates imposed by the apparatus. Do you regard it as a victory or a defeat for the Kremlin?

[Yakovlev] I believe quite simply that these elections are the strongest impulse to democratization that has occurred in these 4 years of restructuring. In fact everything that has happened since 1985 is a revolution from above. Now, with an open and free election campaign and with the results they produced, these elections are releasing a force that at last originates from the grassroots. It is the first time that these two impulses have coincided. I believe nobody can say what the result will be.

[Interviewer] Do you not believe that the country's leaders were surprised by the mechanism that they set in motion by coupling the dogma of the single party with the practice of alternative candidates?

[Yakovlev] I really believe the results were a surprise for everyone, for all those participating in the elections—both for the candidates and for those who desired the elections. It has suddenly become quite clear to the leaders what the people want and do not want, what they accept and reject. At last they have an accurate map of the country and know where they must go, and how far they can go, if they want to follow the people's will.

[Interviewer] Are you saying that it is only the first free elections (albeit within the limitations of the system) that have revealed the USSR's real face after 4 years of restructuring?

[Yakovlev] I am saying that until now we did not know our own society. Look, nobody can claim to know a society in which democracy is undesirable, when the people have no opportunity to express their opinions. Society reveals itself only when it speaks for itself. Now Soviet society has spoken. It is up to the government whether or not it heeds its voice.

[Interviewer] In your opinion, what did this voice say? What is more important in Sunday's vote—the support for restructuring or the blow dealt to the apparatus?

[Yakovlev] People realized they could rely on their own strength, proceed from their own options, carry them through consistently, and defend them. When even very important people—single candidates without any rivals or apparent risks—failed to secure 50 percent of the votes, it indicates the expression of a unanimous, commonly oriented, aware, and determined people's will. And if the citizens have discovered this strength and this path, obviously in the future they will use it and pursue it even more determinedly.

[Interviewer] Do you believe that the government will calmly accept this lesson in the form of a demand for autonomy from below?

[Yakovlev] I am convinced that after the elections none of the old administrative methods of command can influence public opinion. People can only be influenced through direct dialogue and discussion. Authority without arguments is finished, as is command without consensus. Let us consider the case of the candidates who decided to stand alone, without rivals: Probably their subordinates persuaded them that it was not worth taking risks and that it was better to continue with the old systems. Try talking with the voters, however: They eliminated them not only because they considered them no good but mainly because they were single candidates. If they present us with elections in which there are no choices, then it is better not to choose, people reasoned. The result for these old-style candidates is not a victory: It is outright ostracism by the people.

[Interviewer] How did this new civic and political awareness come about so suddenly in a society that for many years lacked rights and was composed of subjects rather than citizens?

[Yakovlev] It is as though the electoral process alone had in a few months overturned the old taboos, advancing what you call civic awareness. There are some explanations, however. First, television, which relayed live the extraordinary spectacle of the debate between candidates. The people who appeared on television seeking votes discussed issues never discussed in public, such as social justice, the multi-party system, the behavior of some of their supreme leaders—issues on which the newspapers, including MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, are still lagging far behind and are too cautious about. Of course candidates enjoy legal immunity, but perhaps journalists should be more courageous now.

[Interviewer] This whole boom in political and electoral interest does not, however, explain the rebellion against the apparatus: What is the reason for it?

[Yakovlev] Look, it was not necessary to await the elections to realize that the greatest threat to restructuring is intolerance. In the election campaign too many people were intolerant and worked more against their rivals than for themselves. Unfortunately this activity also involved party officials, who exploited all the resources at their disposal. It is no coincidence that there is a very high proportion of apparatchiks among the single candidates. There is also intolerance among the voters: They directed all their outrage against the party officials, without distinguishing between the enemies and supporters of restructuring.

[Interviewer] Had the apparatchiks not already protected themselves by transferring directly to parliament from the vast safe areas of the so-called "creative unions?"

[Yakovlev] As you know, I was elected deputy by one of these unions—the cinematographers' union. However, this does not prevent me from saying that I disagree with this electoral mechanism: I consider it undemocratic. I believe that this experience will force us to rethink matters—and the thoughts will not be very happy ones. Meanwhile, however, it can already be said that the people's masses—despite peaks of extremism—proved readier for democracy than our intelligentsia. I hope to publish in the next issue of my journal a photograph of Sakharov elected deputy at last. It would be a sign that democracy prevails over the bureaucratic system.

[Interviewer] There is another elected deputy who embarrasses the government, however. What is your assessment of the Yeltsin case?

[Yakovlev] I would call it the "Yeltsin phenomenon." Obviously the not very honest attempts to hinder Yeltsin created what we call the "vice versa effect." If he lived in America Yeltsin would have to pay a high price to those enemies of his that earned him vast support, with their own methods. This case is the most obvious example of how the old methods can still survive today. But the political phenomenon lies in the fact that Yeltsin was elected by people whose hearts and minds are directed toward the future. I do not see why Yeltsin could not be a party candidate.

[Interviewer] But the party is carrying out an inquiry into him. Is this not a frightened reaction?

[Yakovlev] I was not at the plenum; I cannot give a complete assessment. In general, however, a committee of inquiry into a politician's speeches is not something that fills me with joy.

[Interviewer] The Yeltsin case is not an isolated one. Why was the entire party leadership rejected in Leningrad?

[Yakovlev] Because there was a huge gulf between the people and the conservative leaders. I personally witnessed the citizens' outrage at the single candidates. In

the Baltic, however, the party gained a good result because it was able to conduct a dialogue with the new movements, showing that coexistence is possible.

[Interviewer] Do you believe that the restructuring team can make their options prevail in the new parliament, even if they are in a small minority with respect to the apparatus?

[Yakovlev] A year ago I published a front-page photograph of Academician Sagdeyev, who cast a contrary vote in the Supreme Soviet. His was the first hand raised in a contrary vote in parliament for 50 years. I do not know what will happen. I do know, however, that there are many people who will vote on the basis of their beliefs and not of obedience to the authorities. At last "oppositionists"—alternative voices—are entering parliament. Their long absence is the prime cause of all our ills.

Valjas Thanks Voters for Support

LD3103175489 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1700 GMT 29 Mar 89

["Address" by Vaino Valjas, first secretary of the Estonia Communist Party Central Committee; date and place not specified—live or recorded; carried in the "Echo of the Day" program]

[Text] Esteemed compatriots! Today, on behalf of the republican leadership, I would like to address you all with words of gratitude for the final result of the elections. The question is indeed not in our (?persons), but it is the trust at issue here, demonstrated in the party and in the course chosen jointly by all of us, in the name of tomorrow's secure Estonia. The support of the people demonstrates also that extremist trends in today's Estonia lie in isolation. The people will not go along with the endeavors which endanger the feeling of security for us all.

Our common aim is the stable but persistent progression along the path of securing democracy and sovereignty and implementation of IME [self-managing Estonia], along the path of a new Estonia. Awaiting us along that path are many trials, but perhaps any achievement is treasured even more; the more trouble and pain, its achievement has a price.

It is the same story also with work, and the feeling of being a master. Respect for work in a worker, peasant, or a creative worker, and the true feeling of being master of one's land, one's life, as well as of one's home area are of course reluctant to return. Time has left very many scars upon this, but we have no other option if we want to act in the name of a better tomorrow. A human being must remain a human being everywhere, and in respect of any matter. We all need persistence, stubbornness, and perseverence.

We all live here in Estonia and consider it our joint home. One needs to understand that only by acting together is it possible to achieve (?the common aim). If necessary, one needs to search stubbornly in the name of furthering democracy and in the name of sovereignty for new paths. But presenting conditions or ultimatums will not advance us. This must also be clear to each of us. We will not proceed along that path.

Allow me once again to thank you all and wish you strength, peace of mind, and perseverence in your future work. Thank you for your attention.

Far East Commander Cited on Defeat

PM0304150589 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Mar 89 Second Edition p 1

[Interview in Khabarovsk with Lieutenant General V.I. Novozhilov, commander of the Far East Military District, by V. Konstantinov: "I Have No Regrets"; date not given]

[Text] Khabarovsk—I admit to having been hesitant about approaching Lieutenant General V.I. Novozhilov, commander of the Far East Military District. The ups and downs of the election struggle in which Viktor Ivanovich was beaten are very fresh in his memory. He put a great deal of effort into it and yet had to accept defeat. Not everyone would agree to be interviewed in such a situation....

[Novozhilov] No, I think it is the right time to make a first self-critical analysis. But above all I want to congratulate Yevdokiya Aleksandrovna Gayer, who has been elected deputy for our national territorial okrug.... [Novozhilov ends]

The election campaign in this okrug had one special feature. During the okrug meeting V.I. Novozhilov himself insisted on the inclusion on the ballot paper of a second candidate—an ethnographer from the USSR Academy of Sciences Far Eastern Department, a sincere and tireless campaigner for the interests of the multinational Far East. It was a noble, officer-like gesture and was, to speak plainly, in the spirit of developing democracy. But does Viktor Ivanovich regret it now?

[Novozhilov] I have no regrets because I'm convinced that the strength of these elections is that the people taking part in them really made a choice rather than just "voting." My conclusion is that one cannot rely on old methods of political work under the new conditions. As a candidate I should have met with more people, reached every voter, and set out my election program better. I want to say straightaway that the main points of the program were submitted by me and I intend to pursue them with the same vigor as before even though I am not a deputy. Restructuring in the Armed Forces, the resolute struggle against nonregulation relations, close contact with the civilian population, and attention to the military-patriotic education of young people are all a fundamental points, not just points of passing interest. As district commander, a member of the Khabarovsk party kray committee, and a native of the Far East, I am simply duty bound to see through to completion all the points put forward in my election program.

[Konstantinov] The elections have made some people talk about a "vote of no confidence" in high-level leaders....

[Novozhilov] The elections have brought us face to face with entirely new political realities—that is indisputable. But I advocate calm and balanced conclusions, and these will undoubtedly be drawn. Moreover, in the period of restructuring the party, the soviets, and their executive committees should set an example of new thinking unshackled by stereotypes. I think that the main thing today is for everyone to work persistently for restructuring; and those entrusted with power should work twice or three times as hard. We should moan less about "letting go of the reins" and devote more effort to resolving specific tasks. I don't know about anybody else, but for me the postelection period has been just as busy as the preelection period. People have been visiting me with and asking the hardest questions. So even if I don't have the mandate of a deputy, I think I did get a mandate of confidence from many thousands of Far Eastern people—and I have to live up to it every day and every hour....

Mexican Paper Interviews Yeltsin

PA0104235189 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 29 Mar 89 pp 1-A, 10-A

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Boris Yeltsin, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Housing Construction and Soviet Parliament elections winner, by Hernan Rodriguez M., in Moscow on 28 March]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Mar—My election victory is a warning to the conservative sectors that are holding back restructuring. The people want things to move forward the way Gorbachev originally planned it, asserted Boris Yeltsin, winner in Sunday's [26 March] elections.

The charismatic leader admitted that the Soviet Union is not yet ready for a multiparty system, but added that "this is something that can be discussed in the future."

EXCELSIOR interviewed the first deputy chairman of the State Committee for Housing Construction at a building a few blocks away from this newspaper's bureau. The so-called "hero of Moscow" asked us, however, not to take much of his time because he was very busy.

The independent candidate, who, according to election results released by TASS, won 89 percent of the votes in this capital, believes he is more than entitled to have a place in the next Supreme Soviet and to participate in Gorbachev's election as Soviet chief executive [primer mandatario de la USSR], which is equivalent to that of chief executive in a Western country.

Yeltsin, who is 58, tall, husky, and blue-eyed, seemed to be in high spirits, although he admitted that he sleeps only 4 hours a night and "works from dawn to dusk."

When we asked him about developments in Sunday's elections—which the People's Front for Support to Restructuring in Lithuania [Frente Popular de Apoyo a la Perestroyka de Lituania] said were the most democratic ones held here since 1926—he answered that "it is interesting to note that those of us who promoted the process of change had the most resounding victories in the elections."

Cautious and elusive at times, Yeltsin did not mince words when referring to CPSU candidate Yevgeniy Brakov, his opponent in the elections, who received 7 percent of the votes.

"It should be borne in mind that Brakov had full support from the party apparatus and that all I received were threats and even attempts to completely boycott my candidacy," he said.

He recalled that Brakov went so far as "to say that I was an ambitious politician and to accuse me of engaging in cheap propaganda. That was not fair, and 89 percent of Muscovites gave him the proper response," he said.

He stressed that the landslide victory he received "should be food for thought for all USSR conservatives."

When questioned about the future prospects for his most powerful rival, Yegor Ligachev, the victorious candidate said little, if anything at all. He opted to change the subject after making a slight grimace that was a mixture of scorn and contempt.

Regarding the developments in the Baltic republics, Leningrad, the Ukraine, and Belorussia, where the official candidates were virtually swept away, Yeltsin smiled. "I know the people from the Baltic region. I will probably see them when the Parliament opens its sessions," he said.

Regarding the attacks Gorbachev leveled at him that very Sunday, when he said that there are some people who would like to skip stages to make restructuring advance and that this was a foolish attitude, Yeltsin answered: "I have always supported Gorbachev. He brought me to Moscow as his adviser and ally in 1985. I will continue to support him and to defend restructuring, no matter what happens."

Yeltsin was also accused of trying to establish a multiparty system, and the CPSU Central Committee appointed a commission for that reason. After the elections, a rumor was spread that he might be expelled from the party and barred from political activities.

On all of these matters, Yeltsin said that the multiparty system could be discussed in the future and that, for the time being, "we are not prepared for it."

Are you "the hero of Moscow?" we asked him. "Moscow gave me a victory, and I do not want to add a single word to that," he answered, ending the interview.

Yeltsin's Adviser Interviewed

AU0304182389 Vienna PROFIL in German 3 Apr 89 pp 54-55

[Interview with Mikhail Nikiforovich Poltaranin, "Boris Yeltsin's friend and journalistic adviser," by Kerstin Witt in Moscow: "The Dictatorship of the Apparatus Is Over"; date not given]

[Text] PROFIL: Mr Poltaranin, were you surprised by the results of the elections of 26 March?

Poltaranin: Actually no. We expected Yeltsin to win in Moscow; we even expected the overwhelming 90 percent. When he was attacked by the party apparatus, support for Yeltsin increased. The results not only demonstrate agreement with Yeltsin as a person, but they demonstrate an antibureaucratic movement, which opposes the violation of democracy and law by the apparatus.

PROFIL: Do you like this?

Poltaranin: One can only be glad about this, because now it has been shown that our people are striving for freedom and have found it possible to express their will. The dictatorship of the apparatus is now over; the people are starting to slowly bring it under their control.

PROFIL: There were many surprising individual results at the elections.

Poltaranin: In Moscow, for instance, the case of Second Party Secretary Yuriy Prokofyev is interesting: The man participated in Yeltsin's ouster from the Moscow party leadership in November 1987. Now he has gotten the bill: He fell flat with only 13 percent of the votes. Even more drastic is the case of Yuriy Solovyev, the Leningrad party chief and Politburo candidate member. He was the only candidate, but the majority of the voters crossed out his name nevertheless. There was a virtual crossing-out campaign against him.

PROFIL: What happens now to a man like Solovyev?

Poltaranin: Theoretically the Politburo and the Central Committee have nothing to do with the elections to the People's Congress. However, the people have publicly expressed their distrust of these functionaries. There were also party members among the voters, and they probably voted like all others. For a Politburo member like Solovyev this means that his career is at its end. Perhaps these people will remain at their desks for some years, but they are politically dead. The elections were some sort of referendum on the relations between the people and the party apparatus. The results could not have been clearer: The apparatus in its current form no longer has the people's trust.

PROFIL: What does this mean for Gorbachev and his policy?

Poltaranin: This is a very good result for perestroyka. The recent footdragging is now over. Perestroyka has always developed very unsteadily. There were times when it was in danger of reverting, and there were times of its soaring high. Now the people have made it clear that they want radical changes. They do not want any half-steps any more, any maneuvers of the apparatus, which have to date dominated everything. The people demand movement, movement ahead.

PROFIL: Mr Poltaranin, via the journalists' trade union you have also become a deputy to the People's Congress. What do you know about the schedule of the new Soviet Parliament?

Poltaranin: The People's Congress will convene at the end of May and the 2,250 deputies will elect the 450 members of the Supreme Soviet from among themselves. One-fifth of those will be exchanged every year by members of the People's Congress, so that as a deputy one has a chance to work for some time during one's 5-year term of office in the Supreme Soviet, the actual parliament.

PROFIL: How are you preparing for your work in Parliament?

Poltaranin (points to a heap of papers on his desk): I have already prepared drafts for a press law, a censorship law, and a draft on glasnost. Many people are now working on such texts.

PROFIL: Do you consider Boris Yeltsin the future opposition leader in Parliament?

Poltaranin: No, Yeltsin has never said that he wants to be the opposition. However, there will be groups: a nationality group, regional groups, and professional groups. There will be differences in opinion concerning laws, but no total opposition.

PROFIL: What is new then?

Poltaranin: The most important thing is that Parliament is above the apparatus. So far the Supreme Soviet has simply been a voting machine. The orders came from the apparatus. We want things to run the other way around: The Supreme Soviet is to tell the apparatus what it has to do. It must be clear: If the apparatus does not do what the Supreme Soviet wants, it will be fired.

PROFIL: Do you think that you will get a majority for this?

Poltaranin: Yes, I think so. There are many interesting people among the deputies, people from the street, as we say, that is, those who do not come from the apparatus. I think that the progressive forces have the majority in the People's Congress. There are perhaps 500 deputies who come directly from the apparatus. Then there is an intermediate group of about 300 people who were elected because they belong to the workers' class. We have to struggle to prevent them from being eaten up by the apparatus.

PROFIL: The first struggle will be the election of the Supreme Soviet. How do you want to win it?

Poltaranin: I am convinced that there are already some people in the apparatus busily working on compiling a list of deputies whom they want to bring into the Supreme Soviet. However, we will draw up our own list. Shortly before the first session of the People's Congress a complete list of all deputies will be published, and we will then present a list to the Supreme Soviet for discussion.

PROFIL: How do you see Gorbachev's role in this connection?

Poltaranin: Of course it would be important to Gorbachev to have a Supreme Soviet that supports him and not one that grabs his legs and forces him to drag his feet. Gorbachev has enough retirees sitting in the Central Committee. It would certainly be good for him if followers of his policy finally came into the Supreme Soviet.

PROFIL: Why are there so few women this time?

Poltaranin: In the past quotas were set for everything—sex, age, professions. The women do not seem to know how to present themselves favorably. Also, one should not push them into politics by force; after all, in our country they are still doing most of the housework and, therefore, have less free time.

PROFIL: What does this election mean for Moscow, in particular for Moscow's party chief, Lev Zaykov, who had been considered number three in the Politburo for some time?

Poltaranin: For Zaykov this is a political setback, because, after all, the group around him staged the entire turmoil concerning Yeltsin. If Zaykov himself had run against Yeltsin in Moscow and not Yevgeniy Brakov, the director of the ZIL Automobile Factory, the results would not have been different.

PROFIL: Local elections are scheduled in Moscow for autumn.

Poltaranin: Let us wait and see. I think that they will try to postpone the local elections until spring 1990, hoping that by then the excitement will have calmed down a bit.

PROFIL: As a deputy how are you being paid?

Poltaranin: I will receive my salary from my agency, as before; as a deputy I will receive additional payments only for trips and my office. I will get an office; this will be the fourth one!

* 'Dissatisfied' Scientists Reject Candidates

18000710 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 25 Mar 89 p 2

[Article by T. Yakhlakova: "Twelve Seats Are Available"]

[Text] The conference of the USSR Academy of Sciences for the election of people's deputies lasted 3 days. There were 1,278 delegates that took part in the voting; therefore, each of the 23 candidates aspiring to the 20 deputy positions should have received no fewer than 640 votes. Only eight people crossed that line: S. Alekseyev, director of the Institute of Philosophy and Law of the Ural Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences (732 for, 546 against); Zh. Alferov, director of the A. Ioffi (Leningrad) Physical-Technical Institute (659 for, 619 against); A. Gaponov-Grekhov, director of the Institute of Applied Physics (Gorkiy) (791-487); N. Karlov, dean of the Moscow Physical-Technical Institute, corresponding member (704-574); Academicians O. Nefedov (671-607), Yu. Osipyan (699-579); vice-presidents, USSR Academy of Sciences; V. Platonov, academician, president, Belorussian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Academy of Sciences (662-614); Academician K. Rebane, president, Estonian SSR Academy of Sciences (664-614).

Twelve seats were left free, and this cannot be called an accidental result. Over the course of the past 2 months, it was consciously and purposefully prepared by representatives of the scientific community, dissatisfied with the resolution of the USSR Academy of Sciences ruling bodies, which confirmed the list of candidates for people's deputy 18 January. To everyone's amazement, there was no space on this list for the scientists with whose names are today linked with the hope for restructuring and democratic transformation, including A. Aganbegyan, A. Sakharov, and R. Sagdeyev. This forces doubt in the democratic nature of the elections being conducted, but a sense of morality does not allow agreement with what is a lawful decision, as concluded by the Central Elections Commission.

As we have already informed the reader, the inter-institutional initiative group "for the democratic elections of people's deputies from the USSR Academy of Sciences" undertook decisive measures for correcting this injustice (SOVETSKAYA KULTURA 11 Mar 89). But perhaps there was not absolute certainty of success. All the more so as the first two propositions, aired back at the rally of 2 February, which would have allowed a dignified exit from the conflict, were not accepted: The Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences refused to change its resolution, and the candidates considered it impossible to withdraw their candidacy, although their inclusion of all of them in a new, but already expanded roster would have been a necessary condition for such a step.

On Monday, 20 March, one day before the voting, the delegates were supposed to discuss the candidates' programs. Yet no such discussion took place: The debates, which extended until midnight, centered around one issue—how to vote. There was a proposition to cross all candidates off the list in order to open the possibility of repeat elections. A milder variant was proposed: to vote for a minimum of candidates in order to vacate at least part of the seats for repeat elections.

However, neither variant suited those who wished to maintain the status quo. Among them, they stubbornly tried to find a path toward a split and a confrontation. Fortunately, the alternative cry, "vote your conscience!" was accepted by each in his own way (completely justified, but somehow in opposition to the other two, thus casting doubt upon their moral essence). And, as the voting results showed, it would be erroneous to think that the USSR Academy of Sciences' resolution itself did not at least organize a very limited part of the phenomenon of scientific associates trying to be on the "leading edge" of progress. Without the support of academic circles, the delegates from the institutes would not have broken through the course of the elections.

At the conference, much was said about democracy, but with this, the electors, speaking in support of the propositions of the initiative group were now and then reminded that they were pressuring those in attendance. Yet this was a normal pre-election meeting, and it produced the desired results. For now, it is true, all of this is only an interval: The conference is not empowered to nominate candidates for the vacant seats.

But the wishes of the participants were heard out. Including this one: the inclusion in the roster of newly chosen candidates, all of those who were voted for the the previous elections.

* Shcherbitskiy 'Can Do More' as People's Deputy

18000712 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 27 Mar 89 p 2

[Article by S. Sadoshenko: "When There Are No Competitors"]

[Text] Verkhnedneprovsk, Dnepropetrovsk Oblast—I arrived in Verkhnedneprovsk an hour after the beginning of the elections. It was raining and the five rural rayons, and several cities included in the territorial district were just waking up. But the polling stations were already crowded with people. The 29,000 voters of the district must express their attitude toward the single candidate—member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, the first secretary of the Ukrainian CP Central Committee, V.V. Shcherbitskiy.

It was explained in the central electoral commission that the member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo has no agents. Nobody has campaigned for his election. All the pre-electoral meetings with the voters were conducted by Vladimir Vasilyevich himself. It turns out that members of the Politburo do not have the same rights as any other candidate for USSR people's deputy.

And how do the people feel about the lack of an alternative candidate? In Verkhnedneprovsk I met with several voters and asked their opinion of the elections.

V. Soroka, a teacher: "Of course we know Shcherbitskiy well. He was born in this area and his mother lives here. Therefore my wife and I just voted for him. And as for the lack of a pre-electoral battle.... I just returned from Ternopol. There were continual meetings there and a lot of visual campaigning because there were several people running for the same spot. But everything is quiet and peaceful here since the other candidates have withdrawn their names. I think Vladimir Vasilyevich's victory would have been large if there had been any other candidates.

N. Zubenko, senior master at the Verkhnedneprovsk plant for test and experimental machine building of the Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building: "The candidate visited our plant recently. We asked Vladimir Vasilyevich many questions. Unfortunately, I did not have a chance to give him a list of requests. But there are plenty of problems. In particular, we must do something with the Dneprodzerzhinsk water reservoir, which is gradually being transformed into a large meadow. Ecological problems are coming to the fore here."

V. Sapega, pensioner: "This year's elections are not at all like they were before. We have the opportunity to express ourselves openly and comprehensively discuss the candidate for people's deputy. But we are still learning the art of democratic judgment and the ability to hold a discussion. I was at a pre-electoral meeting with Shcherbitskiy and the voters. If you could have heard the questions they raised: one person's sewerage system does not work, another has wind blowing through his windows. Trivia! But we are nominating a person for the country's highest government agency, so we should be discussing state problems. I do not see anything so terrible about the fact that the district is voting only for the first secretary of the Ukrainian CP Central Committee. I think that the equipment operator of the starch and molasses combine, T. Dovbnenko, and the senior shepherd of the Shchorskiy Sovkhoz, A. Nedostup, were right to remove their names from the list and give their votes to Vladimir Vasilyevich. If they elect him, a member of the party Central Committee Politburo can do more as a people's deputy than a shepherd or an equipment operator can."

Further Reportage on Territorial Elections Results

Moldavian Republic Results

LD0104093289 Moscow TASS in English 0804 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Kishinev April 1 TASS—By TASS correspondent Dmitriy Chuvashenko:

With 78.9 percent of the poll in his favour, Moscow-based Moldavian writer Ion Drutse outstripped all his co-contenders for a seat in the new congress of people's deputies from Moldavia, a republic in the Soviet south-west.

Moldavia's Ion Drutse has won recognition across the nation both by his outstanding literary works and his notable civil and journalistic activity in support of perestroika.

On election day people in Moldavia cast their votes for those who, like Ion Drutse, are behind a faster reform drive for the republic and the nation. This is made clear by the official data published by the republican press.

90.6 percent of the voting population turned out for the multi-candidate elections last Sunday [26 March]. There were 71 candidates running in 43 constituencies. In five, none of the two candidates scored the required 50-plus percent.

The new Soviet deputies from Moldavia include Semen Grossu, first secretary of the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee, Central Committee secretaries Vyacheslav Pshenichnikov and Mircha Snegur, President Aleksandr Mokanu and Premier Ivan Kalin, as also writers, journalists, and people in culture who have won recognition as champions of perestroika and glasnost.

More Armenian Election Results

NC3103180389 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Yerevan, 30 Mar, ARMENPRES—Elections for the USSR People's deputies were held in the Armenian SSR on 26 March 1989.

Ten candidates for people's deputies in 8 territorial okrugs and 53 candidates in 32 national territorial okrugs were elected.

Of the 1,953,809 voters, 1,406,933, or 72 percent, voted. The following have been elected in the various electoral okrugs as people's deputies: Vladimir Surenovich Markaryants, CPSU member and chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers; Edgar Sergeyevich Ogannesyan, CPSU member and rector of the Yerevan State Conservatory; Suren Gurgenovich Arutyunyan, CPSU member and first secretary of the Armenian CP Central Committee; non-CPSU member Vazgen Abraamovich Palchyan, Vazgen I, Catholicos of all Armenians; non-CPSU member Grigor Sepoukhovich Khandzhyan, popular artist of the Soviet Union; Frunzik Vaghinakovich Dovlatyan, CPSU member, acting lecturer at the Yerevan Teacher's Institute and producer of "AYFILM" studios; Sergey Aleksandrovich Ambartzumyan, CPSU member and rector of the Yerevan State University; Norik Grigorovich Muradyan, CPSU member and first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party in Spitakskiy Rayon; Samvel Surenovich Galstyan, CPSU member and head of the Kaghkrashen village kolkhoz in Artashatskiy Rayon; Ashot Gaykovich Noroyan, CPSU member and brigade leader at the "Artiktuf" production union; Vardanush Aramovich Muradyan, CPSU member and worker at "Gofratara" factory in Masiskiy Rayon; Valya Zavenovich Zakaryan, CPSU member and agronomist in Oktemberyanskiy Rayon's Aykavan village; Viktor Amazaspovich Ambartsumyan, CPSU member and president of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, and others.

The elections were considered void in three electoral okrugs because less than half the voters cast their votes. These okrugs are: Yerevan's Soviet territorial okrug No 734, where Aleksandr Levonovich Mikaelyan, director of the Yerevan branch of the Surgery Institute of the USSR Medical Sciences' Academy was a candidate; Yerevan's soviet national-territorial okrug No 393, where Feliks Aramayisovich Kurghinyan, toolmaker and metal worker at the "Nork" Factory; and Svetlana Yakovlevna Papovyan, head nurse in Yerevan City Hospital's Casualties' Center, were candidates; and in Yerevan's Zeytun national-territorial okrug No 394, where Yuriy Nakhapetovich Baroyan, director of the (?branch) institute for the improvement of cadres affiliated to the K. Marx Polytechnic Institute; Susanna Andranikovna Galstyan, teacher at Yerevan's No 125 secondary school; Grachya Karapetovich Ogannesyan, chairman of the Armenian Writers' Union; Karen Aramovich Simonyan, acting editor-in-chief of VERATSNVATS AYASTAN magazine; and Levon Vagharshakovich Khachatryan, turner at the "Tekhsarkavorum" production unit, were candidates.

In one territorial okrug, in Edzhmitasin's national-territorial okrug No 416, two deputies, Seda Kristaporovna Gabrielyan, agronomist in Amberd village in Edzhmiatsinskiy Rayon, and Ogannes Armenakovich Khachatryan, director of the V.I. Lenin Sovkhoz in Edzhmitasin, were candidates, but were not elected because the necessary number of votes were not received.

On the basis of Article 61 of the USSR Law on Elections for People's Deputies, the elections in the said okrugs will be repeated.

The outcome of the election have been published in the 30 March issues of the republican press.

Election Results 31 Mar Roundup

LD0304115389

[Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 March 1989 Second Edition carries on page 1 a series of reports from SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA correspondents on the preliminary results of the elections to the USSR Congress of People's Deputies from various parts of the country under the heading "In Electoral Okrugs."

A report from Chelyabinsk notes that A.N. Penyagin, fire-resistance tester at an electrometallurgical combine, was returned in Metallurgicheskiy Territorial Electoral Okrug No 333 with 66.1 percent of the vote. V.A. Mayboroda, thread-grinder at the Ust-Katavsk Railroad Car Construction Plant and not a party member, was returned in Satkinskiy Territorial Electoral Okrug No 340. Also elected were: M. Lezhnev, director of the "Sosnovskaya" Poultry Farm; Yu. Gorozhaninov, general director of the "UralAV" Association; A. Logeyko, internationalist serviceman and military instructor at the Poltava Secondary School; I. Shundeyev, director of the "Koyeldinskiy" State Farm; and S. Naumov, chairman of the "Marksist" Collective Farm [kolkhoz]. N. Shvyrev, first secretary of the Chelyabinsk CPSU Oblast Committee [obkom]; and B. Isayev, chairman of the Chelyabinsk Oblast Soviet Executive Committee, failed to secure the necessary majority.

A report from Kaliningrad notes that none of the three candidates in Kaliningrad City Territorial Okrug No 177 secured the necessary majority, although the most votes went to engineer T.A. Poluektova, not a party member. V.A. Voblikov, chief of Baltiysk CPSU City Committee Organizational Party Work Department, was returned in Chernyakhovskiy Territorial Okrug No 179. V.P. Ivanov, a commander with the Red Banner Baltic Fleet, was returned in Kaliningrad Rural Electoral Okrug No 178.

A report from Groznyy notes that six candidates ran in Checheno-Ingushetia's Urus-Martanovskiy National Territorial Okrug No 677. Almost one-third of the votes went to L.D. Magomadov, "chairman of the State Committee on Prices." A.Ya. Dzhanar-Aliyev, director of No 7 Secondary School in Urus-Martan, won slightly less than one-third of the vote.

A report from Ryazan notes that both Yu.M. Bazev, machine tool repairman at the Heavy Forging and Pressing Equipment Plant; and N.V. Ruchkin, locomotive engineer, failed to secure the necessary majority in Territorial Electoral Okrug No 279, where 2,266 of the 253,231 ballot papers were spoiled. L.I. Khitrun, first secretary of Ryazan CPSU Obkom, was returned in Ryazhskiy Territorial Electoral Okrug No 281, where he ran unopposed. Another unopposed winner was N.V. Yeseykin, machine operator with a leasehold contract link at the "Dobrovolets" Kolkhoz, who was returned in Sasovskiy Territorial Okrug No 282.

A report from Kazan notes that in Zainskiy National Territorial Okrug No 639 Rafis Mansurov, drilling foreman at the Aznakayevo Drilling Administration, was elected with 54.3 percent of the vote. His opponent—Nikolay Bochkarev, leader of a team of fitters and repairmen at the Zainsk Unit Plant of the Kama Motor Vehicle Plant—gained 40.7 percent of the vote.

Tula, Altay, Gorkiy Results Cited

PM0304115189

[Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 1 April 1989 carries in its Second Edition on page 1 four reports under the general heading "In The Electoral Okrugs." The first is a report by own correspondent V. Seliverstov from Tula:

"Colonel General N.A. Moiseyev, member of the Military Council and chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany Political Directorate, is USSR people's deputy for Tsentralnyy Electoral Okrug No 316. Yu.I. Litvintsev, first secretary of Tula CPSU Oblast Committee [Obkom], was elected to represent Shchekinskiy Territorial Electoral Okrug No 319. They were unopposed.

"There was a tense election struggle in other electoral okrugs in the oblast. A.G. Shipunov, leader of a major enterprise in Tula, was beaten by G.B. Babynin, nonparty person and sector chief at the 'Strela' scientific research institute. None of the three candidates in Novomoskovskiy Territorial Electoral Okrug No 318 obtained the requisite number of votes. Z.M. Sudavtsova, worker at the radio components plant, and B.M. Lapshov, general director of the 'Apogey' production association, will continue the struggle for the deputy's seat."

There follows a Barnaul report from own correspondent B. Prokhorov:

"The deputies elected to represent territorial and national territorial okrugs in Altay Kray and Gorno-Altay Autonomous Oblast include people whose professional and organizational abilities have vividly manifested themselves in restructuring. Our kray is an agrarian one and the country expects a great deal from it. So the electorate gave special preference to leaders of farms which have achieved big successes in implementing the Food Program: D. Ye. Pletnetskiy, director of the 'Paspaulskiy' sovkhoz [state farm], Choyskiy Rayon; I.A. Merkulov, chairman of the kolkhoz [collective farm] named for Shumakov in Zmeinogorskiy Rayon; and others."

The third report is from own correspondent V. Pinigin in Gorkiy:

"The results of the elections in Gorkiy Oblast were being discussed at a party obkom bureau session the next day. There was concern, for example, at the fact that over 360,000 people had not turned up to vote, while around 6,000 'forgot' to cast their votes, that is, to put the ballot paper in the box.

"The election struggle was filled with all manner of conflicts. This was reflected in the results of the voting. You would think that if anybody, B.P. Bidyayev, general director of the 'GAZ' association, would have been voted in by the inhabitants of Avtozavodskiy Electoral Okrug. After all, the development of the rayon and its social infrastructure depends a great deal on him, as an economic manager. But the majority voted for a hitherto little known Gorkiy flight engineer, V.L. Yerokhin, who, incidentally, put himself forward at the pre-election meeting.

"N.S. Zharkov, general director of the 'Zavod Krasnoye Sormovo' association, succumbed to his rival—V.F. Kuzubov, shop chief at the aircraft association named for S. Ordzhonikidze.

"It was a difficult election campaign in Leninskiy Electoral Okrug for I.M. Bogdanov, director of school No 94. The police found that there had been infringements of the law in the school dining room and suspicion fell on the candidate. It was only as a result of timely action by the youth paper that the suspicion was dispelled. The young director became people's deputy.

"G.M. Khodyrev, first secretary of the party obkom, ran unopposed in Pavlovskiy Electoral Okrug. But the fact that the vast majority of voters voted for him is a vote of confidence for the oblast party leader. Oblast soviet executive committee Chairman A.A. Sokolov also became a USSR people's deputy, having gained more votes than the second candidate.

"Some 80 percent of the deputies elected in Gorkiy Oblast are CPSU members and 20 percent are workers or kolkhoz members. Only in 1 of the 11 territorial okrugs, Gorodetskiy, where neither candidate obtained the requisite number of votes, will there be a rerun."

The final report is from own correspondent V. Kolobov in Tambov:

"Three candidates ran in Tambovskiy Territorial Electoral Okrug No 308. But none of them obtained more than half of the votes. The okrug electoral commission named 9 April 1989 as the date for the new election. V.B. Davituliani, laboratory chief at the Scientific Research Institute of Chemicals for Polymer Materials; and V.A. Krylov, senior teacher at the Higher Military Aviation Academy for Pilots; will continue the struggle in the second round.

"Nearly 92 percent of those who voted in Rasskazovskiy Territorial Okrug No 311 voted for Ye.M. Podolskiy, first secretary of Tambov CPSU obkom, who was running unopposed."

Further Reports on 31 Mar Attempted Baku Hijacking

Baku Reports Foiled Attempt

NC0104060989 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0340 GMT 1 Apr 89

[From the republican press review]

[Text] Pilot First Class [name indistinct] and his crew, who are affiliated with the civil aviation administration of the central rayons and who fly on the Voronezh-Astrakhan-Baku route, were confronted with a serious situation for the first time last [as heard] night. One of the passengers contacted the pilots through the internal communications system demanding that they change course and fly to a foreign destination. The [word indistinct] warned that otherwise he would blow up the aircraft.

A total of 76 passengers, including women and children, were on the aircraft. The hijacker also demanded $500,000 and said he wished to leave for a foreign country.

However, the hijacker did not succeed in carrying out his intentions. He was rendered harmless by a special unit of the USSR KGB at 1109 local time on 31 March 1989.

The newspapers have published detailed information on the incident.

'Details' of Hijacking Shown on TV

LD0104214789 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 1 Apr 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast; report by correspondents M. Mamedov and B. Zamchinskiy from Baku airport under the caption "Reporting the Details"—recorded]

[Text] [Mamedov] It is an ordinary working day today for Baku's Bina Airport. Passengers are flying in and out. There is not the slightest hint of the fact that just yesterday, until 1000 Moscow time, a very tense situation indeed had arisen here. On a plane that had arrived from Astrakhan, a hijacker whose name has already been established as Stanislav Skok demanded $500,000 and to be flown abroad; otherwise the criminal threatened to blow up the plane carrying 76 passengers, including women and children. [video shows footage dated 31 March and timed 0616 showing plane on runway; man carrying briefcase shown approaching aircraft; another shot of plane shows man hanging out of cockpit window. Report cuts to Mamedov, standing on the tarmac with planes in background and three men beside him]

These people were the first to come into contact with the criminal aboard the plane.

[A. Aslakhanov, staff member of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, identified by screen caption] We were set the task of establishing how serious the criminal's intentions were, getting into contact with him, and taking all measures to ensure that the people were rescued.

[A. Aliyev, staff member of the Azerbaijan KGB, identified by screen caption] There are perhaps two feelings that I would mention: Anxiety about the people's lives and hatred for this person who placed in jeopardy the lives of quite innocent people. Therefore, we were endeavoring at any price to talk to him, and our conversation went on a long time, it has to be said, 7 hours, virtually the whole night, until morning, until the people were released. And I believe that we achieved this goal.

[Aslakhanov] He claimed that there were another two accomplices with him who were controlling the situation in the cabin and they also had explosive devices and

weapons. He presented us with an ultimatum that if he didn't receive the $500,000 by 1100 he would give the command to his accomplices and one person would be brought to the gangway and shot every 10 minutes.

[Mamedov] Fortunately the criminal was bluffing. He had neither accomplices, weapons, nor an explosive device. [video shows group of men by the aircraft overpowering someone. One man calls for assistance, another man standing near is pointing gun in the direction of the group; man is carried away by the group]

[I.I. Gorelovskiy, chairman of the Azerbaijan KGB, identified by screen caption] First and foremost I would like to note the humane nature of the operation that was carried out. The most important factor in this was the lives of Soviet people. In the name of rescuing them all possible options were worked out. A constant link was maintained with Moscow. They set about rendering harmless and seizing the criminal only at the point when all the necessary guarantees for the safety of passengers had been created. As for the risk, only the officers of the KGB and the Ministry of Internal Affairs who participated directly in capturing the criminal were exposed to risk.

[Mamedov] How long did the whole operation take?

[Gorelovskiy] A matter of seconds.

KGB Member Explains Hijack Foiling

LD0104015389 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] We have already reported how a bandit who was attempting to hijack an aircraft was disarmed at Baku Airport.

Here now is a conversation between our freelance correspondent Aleksandr Nefedov and Major Oleg Gaibovich Aliyev, a staff member of the USSR Committee on State Security [KGB], who led the group who seized the bandit.

[Begin recording] [Aliyev] The flight route was Voronezh-Astrakhan-Baku, and the flight number was 2617. After the flight left Astrakhan, a certain citizen passed a note to the crew via the stewardess saying that he had an explosive device on him and asking the crew to alter its course to go abroad, understanding of course that it could not go there directly and that a landing was needed for refuelling and for deciding all the other matters. The crew, acting skilfully, landed at Baku and informed the interested departments. Moreover, as one of his conditions he had demanded $500,000. He was constantly in touch with the crew, through which these demands were made to the airport administration.

[Nefedov] Had he boarded at Voronezh or Astrakhan?

[Aliyev] The criminal himself had boarded at Voronezh. It was night and he said: Land in Baku; $500,000 and then a flight abroad. Originally he said go either to Nepal or to Pakistan. Later he refused Pakistan for some reason, and then unambiguously pressed only for Nepal.

[Nefedov] What about the sequence of the operation?

[Aliyev] We were given one specific mission—to begin negotiations with him, so to speak, as envoys in the guise of civil aviation employees, to make contact with him and to make sure once again what this person really wanted. The aim was also to study the general psychological and physical possibilities and make sure that the explosive device was real. We negotiated with him for practically 10 hours, with intervals of about 15 minutes, 20 minutes or 10 minutes, depending on the situation. Throughout the entire 10 to 11 hours—and we had arrived there at midnight—we were constantly aboard the aircraft until 1130, when the operation ended.

Firstly, of course, we studied the whole situation aboard the aircraft. We could see for sure that the criminal was determined—that he would not, so to speak, be led by us—and he unequivocally expressed the principle that either he would be flown abroad or else he had nothing to lose.

[Nefedov] When he let you come aboard, did he demand that you be unarmed?

[Aliyev] Firstly, we were in Aeroflot uniforms; and secondly, because of all the strange circumstances, he did not even look particularly closely at us. We acted in an open way as we approached, showing by our whole appearance, so to speak, an amicable attitude to him, and that we did not intend to struggle with him. This was not our task at this stage. The main task was was to understand the frame of mind of the criminal, and the more so in that all the time he was talking with us he was holding in his hands this bag, from which some electronic sounds were constantly to be heard. They were of course faint, but nevertheless we were periodically disturbed and made nervous.

[Nefedov] Tell me, did you take into account the fact that there were women and children on board?

[Aliyev] By that time there were none on board. When I had spoken to him over the telephone—that is to say, over the aircraft link—we had convinced him of the need to allow the women and children to leave. The young man was, to tell the truth, bright, and I would say fairly intelligent. He did have doubts about what he was doing, but nevertheless he displayed, so to speak, the stubbornness of a mule. However, in practice he did not manage to show resistance because we were there in sufficient strength.

Well, we waited, because all the time he held in his hand what we presumed to be an explosive device. That is to say, there was an element of risk. If there was an explosive device and the contact were to go off, there was

the possibility of an explosion. Therefore we waited for a more specific situation. The situation changed when he lit a cigarette. It was sufficient for us to seize the initiative and to prevent him from touching his bag. We twisted his arms and took away his bag. Actually there were no weapons.

[Nefedov] So the story about the explosive device was not confirmed?

[Aliyev] We have not worked it all out yet. We have only just handed it over to the explosive experts. They will now examine it. Now, if you will excuse me, I shall finish here. I am frightfully tired. Thank you. [end recording]

New Interethnic Radio Program 'Soyuz' Begins
LD0204123889 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Tomorrow, on 3 April, the call sign of a new program—Radio Station Soyuz—will go on the air for the first time. This will go out every day at 1200 [0800 GMT] simultanously on the first program of All-Union Radio and the Radio Orbita program doubling this, lasting 30 minutes, and 1 hour on Saturdays.

Soyuz is a radio station for interethnic communication, and the main content of the broadcast will be propaganda about the friendship of the peoples of our country, the patriotic and international education of the working people, and the improvement of interethnic relations outlined by the 19th party conference.

Going out over the air during the period when preparations are being made for the upcoming CPSU Central Committee plenum on improving interethnic relations, one of the priority topics of the program will be to throw light on the question of deepening restructuring in the political, economic and spiritual spheres, and upon various aspects of the life of the peoples of our country. The programs will include accounts of the development of national customs and traditions, of momentous historical dates, and of how negative phenomena which have come down to us from the recent past are being overcome.

Radio Station Soyuz will report on how the work is proceeding on preparing the second stage of the political reform and on drawing up legislative acts regulating interethnic relations.

The first edition of Radio Station Soyuz contains a reportage from Red Square, a selection of sound recordings on the approaching agricultural season in a number of regions round the country, and reportages dealing with specific problems, compiled by journalists from Ukraine and Tajik radios.

Republics' Economic Role To Be Boosted
PM3103134189 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 89 Morning Edition p 2

[Unattributed interview with A.I. Smirnov, chief of the USSR Council of Ministers Administration of Affairs National Economy and Capital Construction Territorial Development Department: "Toward Harmonization of Interests. Strong Center—Strong Regions"—no place or date of interview given; first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The basic intention and essence of the draft General Principles for Restructuring the Leadership of the Economy and the Social Sphere, which have been submitted for nationwide discussion, are summed up in the simple but weighty formula: "A firm union means a strong center and strong republics." And what is the meaning of strong republics? How and in what direction should their rôle be enhanced? Are the measures contained in the draft General Principles sufficient for this purpose? These and other questions provided the topic of IZVESTIYA's interview with A.I. Smirnov, chief of the USSR Council of Ministers Administration of Affairs National Economy and Capital Construction Territorial Development Department and member of the commission for preparation of the published document.

[IZVESTIYA] First of all, why has the need to enhance the role of union republics in the management system emerged right now? What has prompted this?

[Smirnov] Strictly speaking, the question of the correlation between the center and the localities has long existed. In the economic management sphere, it is largely predetermined by the real strength of the sectorial and territorial principles of management. Both are objectively necessary. After all, sectors exist by virtue of the division of social labor. It is equally obvious, however, that everything happens in time and space, as it were. And space means a territory. But every time demands its own specific optimum combination of the sectorial and territorial principles.

The elimination of national economic councils was followed by an exaggerated buildup of the might of sectorial ministries. The results are well known, so let me cite just a few figures. Directly republican industry today accounts for less than 5 percent of the country's total industrial output. Republics have at their disposal only one-fifth of state centralized capital investments. Payments from the profits of enterprises under union jurisdiction into republican budgets amount to only 2 percent. [statistic as published] This truncated economic autonomy of republics is one of the reasons behind the exacerbation of interethnic relations and the emergence of national egoism and parochialism as a defensive reaction.

Restructuring and democratization, by exposing the prevailing situation, simultaneously created conditions for remedying it. Let me remind you that the shaping of a qualitatively new system of territorial management

based on the principles of economic accountability was first raised as a most important and immediate task at the June 1987 session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which adopted the USSR Law on the State Enterprise.

The present stage of the Soviet multinational state's development and the implementation of radical transformations in all spheres of society's life dictate the enhancement of territories' role.

This means, first, a close interconnection with the reform of the political system. The revival of soviets at all levels—from republic to settlement—is unimaginable without expansion of their rights, expansion not just in words but by underpinning them with a firm material foundation.

Second, the enhancement of the role played by territories stems from the further unfolding of the economic reform itself. The expansion of enterprises' economic autonomy and their transition to the principles of economic accountability and self-financing offer scope for developing horizontal ties and combining their interests with the region's interests. This can be achieved only by creating a single system for managing the activity of enterprises, sectors, and territories, a system functioning on economically accountable principles. In other words, only by linking vertical and horizontal economic accountability. This is why the projected reorganization of the leadership of the national economy and social sphere in union republics is a logical extension of the line of economic management methods and a component of the radical economic reform.

Finally, it is necessary to mention the interconnection between the forthcoming changes in management and the legal reform. The process of democratization which is gathering pace and the shaping of a socialist rule-of-law state presuppose that the clearly divided functions and rights of union, republic, and local management organs are enshrined in legislation.

Therefore the draft General Principles which have been submitted for nationwide discussion synthesize and concretize current and long-term questions of restructuring, and lie in the mainstream of our society's onward advance toward a qualitatively new condition.

[IZVESTIYA] But what is it planned to do in order to strengthen the republics?

[Smirnov] Here we have a whole package of coordinated decisions. First and foremost, the expansion of the sphere of economic management, the consolidation of republics' financial base, and the delegation to them of substantial rights now exercised by the center.

It must be emphasized: What is embodied in the General Principles is not the product of some shareout of sectors between the union and the republics. The main criterion for redistribution is what best ensures a solution of the dual task of accelerating the economic development of the country as a whole and of each union republic.

Pride of place here is occupied by man with his growing and diverse needs. They are always specific and are most fully expressed in the place where he lives and works. Who else if not republican and territorial organs should be primarily concerned with satisfying them?

This is why it is envisaged to concentrate in republican hands leadership of the agro-industrial complex, production of foodstuffs and industrial consumer goods, housing and municipal services, consumer services, health care, education, culture, and other social sphere sectors. According to preliminary estimates, republican industry will produce the lion's share—approximately 80 percent—of the total volume of consumer goods.

The management of the construction complex will also be concentrated in republican hands, with the exception of specialized construction work and the production of some construction materials. This will substantially expand the republics' potential as regards housing construction. They will also be entrusted with the development of the entire infrastructure of production at regional level—transportation services, power and water supplies, storage facilities, and so on. On the whole, the share of republican industry will increase by a factor of 8-10, while in the Baltic republics, Central Asia, and Moldavia it will reach 60-75 percent of total industrial output. The republics' share in state centralized capital investments will increase by a factor of 1.5-2. In other words, we are talking about extremely tangible changes.

[IZVESTIYA] It is well known that a number of republics have also elaborated their own counterproposals, as it were, (at times bordering on demands) that they be put in charge of all national economic sectors, which in essence means reviving the national economic councils, but with even greater autonomy. The document makes it clear that they have not been accepted. Why?

[Smirnov] Indeed, the commission, which was made up of responsible representatives—as a rule first deputy chairmen of the councils of ministers and State Planning Committee chairmen from all union republics, as well as leading economic and legal scientists—thoroughly examined these proposals and did not deem them acceptable. Why?

A united national economic complex has taken shape in the country. This is not an abstraction, it is not the mechanical sum total of the economies of the 15 union republics and dozens of sectors. It is based on the intra-union division of labor and on the production sharing and specialization which have developed on the basis of every region's natural, historical, demographic, and other specific features. Our advantage (and at the same time not fully utilized asset) actually lies in the fact that the state has the opportunity to shape the national economy's sectorial and territorial structure. Republics

would find it difficult to do this on their own. The only necessary element is to ensure that they have maximum interest in the rational siting of productive forces throughout the country and in the efficient specialization and integration of production.

There are, furthermore, sectors which simply cannot be broken up, which function as a single whole. They are the sectors which determine the economic independence and the stable and dynamic development both of the USSR as a whole and of each individual republic. I mean national economic complexes like the fuel and energy complex, the metallurgical complex, the chemical industry and timber complex, the machine-building complex, and the defense industry. I would also add to this list the all-union systems of railroad, air, and maritime transport, communications, and information technology. Such complexes are most efficiently led on the basis of the sectorial principle, which means at union level.

[IZVESTIYA] Another important condition for the strengthening of union republics is the consolidation of their financial base. What changes are intended in this sphere? And what are their fundamental elements?

[Smirnov] First of all, it is planned to make the resources which can be placed at a republic's disposal more closely dependent on the end results of its economic activity and primarily on the work of enterprises, regardless of their subordination.

Any analogies are only relative. But, with some reservations, it can be said that the time has come to extend our fundamental principle of distribution according to labor to territories as well. Let the prosperity of a republic, oblast, city, or rayon, and the solution of their social problems, depend primarily on their deeds.

The earning of funds through people's own efforts is the key to the entire new system of territorial management.

Union republic budgets will receive payments from enterprises (including those under union jurisdiction) in respect of labor resources, land, and water. Moreover, the rates charged will be determined by the republic itself. All state taxes collected from the population and the cooperatives will be credited to republics' revenues. It is also intended that all enterprises pay into the republic budget a proportion of their profit (revenue). Naturally, republican and local economy enterprises will pay almost all (90-95 percent) of such sums into republic revenues, and only 5-10 percent into the union budget. There is a viewpoint that the union budget could even manage without such payments. But the point is not so much the quantitative aspect, but the "philosophy of the matter." Payments into the union budget will be an expression of ownership by the whole people, of every state enterprise's participation in forming the resources for the solution of unionwide tasks. In my view, this is fair.

Enterprises under union jurisdiction ought to increase their payments into republic budgets to 40 percent of deductions from profits. As a result of this, according to estimates, their share in republics' budgets will rise to 20 percent.

Clearly, a republic should be entitled to dispose of everything it has earned as it sees fit. All restrictions in this regard have been abolished. It can channel funds into the introduction of supplementary wage payments for teachers or physicians, state subsidies for children, assistance for the disabled or the elderly, improvement of health care, and other needs.

[IZVESTIYA] The ecological situation has deteriorated in many regions. On this basis, the enhancement of national awareness is coupled with a broad public movement for environmental protection. What opportunities will the republics have to solve ecological problems?

[Smirnov] An important point is that the priority of territorial management in the solution of these problems is given the status of law for the first time. Republics will be given the right to dispose of the unified state fund of natural resources. They will grant permission for their exploitation and will set maximum limits and normatives for the utilization of natural resources. Henceforth the construction of new enterprises under union jurisdiction and the expansion of existing ones funded by centralized capital investment will be possible only on the basis of decisions agreed between the republics and the relevant sectorial organ and involving reciprocal obligations. If an enterprise systematically violates the established regime for utilization of natural resources and creates an ecologically dangerous situation, the republic may prohibit its operations.

It is clear that local organs must cooperate with enterprises in this work. Nothing will get done without their practical actions to introduce ecologically clean and waste-free technologies and to construct environmental protection facilities.

[IZVESTIYA] But if a sizable proportion of enterprises in a republic's territory remains under union jurisdiction, does this mean that they are in no way subordinate to the republics?

[Smirnov] Yes and no. Everybody seems to agree that an enterprise cannot be under dual jurisdiction. This would not produce anything good. Generally speaking, we all must bear in mind: An enterprise's economic autonomy is protected by law. Enterprises are our sole breadwinners, for cities, republics, or the whole country. This also applies to republican economy enterprises. Their rights must be inviolable and not subject to usurpation. We cannot allow administrative diktat to be replaced by territorial diktat.

The creation of the most favorable conditions for enterprises' work is a guarantee of economic and consequently social prosperity at local and republican levels.

This is the basis on which their mutual relations must be built. I have already spoken about enterprises' participation in the shaping of budgets. Furthermore, republics are given the preferential right to conclude contracts with enterprises and construction organizations under union ministries for the supply of consumer goods and other necessary output and for the construction of social and cultural facilities over and above the state orders assigned to them.

[IZVESTIYA] But won't the upshot be that republics' rights will again be undermined by the centralized systems of planning, material and technical supply, price formation, and wage regulation?

[Smirnov] This danger was taken into account when the General Principles were being elaborated. They therefore envisage serious changes in the aforementioned spheres of management. It is intended to reduce to a minimum the number of initial data notified to union republics. There will also be changes in state orders. They will cover less and less output in terms of both range and volume of production.

The development of commodity-money relations and wholesale trade and the shaping of a single unionwide socialist market will enhance republics' freedom in establishing mutually advantageous interregional ties. The extensive rights granted to republics in foreign economic activity will give them opportunities to earn foreign currency for their own needs.

Speaking about the protection of republics' interests, I must emphasize at the same time that it is objectively necessary for the union to retain its powers as regards the determination of structural-investment policy, the functioning of the single monetary system, price regulation, tariffs, and other economic levers. Otherwise it will be impossible to ensure the smooth functioning of the entire economic mechanism.

Threat To Ban Latvian Independence Group Reported

AU0204190989 Paris AFP in English 1856 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Moscow, April 2 (AFP)—The Presidium of the Latvian Supreme Soviet (parliament) has given a local independence organisation two months to "conform to the constitution" or be banned, a press report reaching here Sunday said.

In a decree published in the Latvian Communist Party publication, SOVIETSKAYA MOLODIOJ, parliament accused the Latvian National Independence Movement of calling for "the re-establishment of the independence of the Latvian democratic state, the creation of a parliamentary democracy based on the constitution of the 1922 republic," and the "denationalisation of the means of production".

Latvia proclaimed its independence in November, 1918. In 1940, it was annexed by the Soviet Union, along with the two other Baltic republics, Estonia and Lithuania.

The decree, published Friday, ordered the public prosecutor and interior ministry in Latvia to "take decisive measures to maintain public order."

Latvian Creative Unions View Human Rights

PM0304113789 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 89 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Creative Unions' Plenum"]

[Text] Riga, 31 Mar—A 2-day plenum of the boards of the republic's creative unions here began yesterday to discuss problems of human rights and the peoples in the light of the final document of the Vienna conference. The plenum is taking place with the participation of eminent specialists in the field of international law from Moscow, the other union republics, and foreign countries. The inhabitants of Latvia are following the course of the plenum with the aid of direct radio and television broadcasts.

Taking part in the work of the plenum are Ya.Ya. Vagris, first secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee; A.V. Gorbunov, chairman of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium; and V.G. Bresis, chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers.

Kishinev Demonstrators' Arrests, Sentences Noted

PM0304092389 Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 14 Mar 89 p 3

[ATEM report: "From Competent Sources"]

[Text] An ATEM correspondent has been told at the Kishinev internal affairs administration that 11 people have been arrested for taking part in the unauthorized event held 12 March in the republic's capital and for violating the 2 August 1988 Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree "On Responsibility for Violating the Set Procedure for Organizing and Holding Gatherings, Meetings, Street Marches, and Demonstrations." The people's court determined the measures of punishment for four of them. Thus S.F. Pedurets, inhabitant of Gura-Galbeney village, Chimishliyskiy Rayon, and a worker at the repair and construction administration of the railroad administration in Kotovsk, Ukrainian SSR, was sentenced to 10 days' administrative arrest. Kishinev inhabitant G.N. Nikulitsa, construction worker at the "Moldmedliovodstroy" trust's number 14 mobile mechanized column, was fined R100, V.V. Cheban, student at the Kishinev state farm college, was fined R50, and B.I. Kovorluyanu, who works nowhere, was fined R30.

Kishinev inhabitant, pensioner N.N. Kayryak; V.K. Isak, an inhabitant of Drepkautsy village, Brichanskiy Rayon, who works nowhere; N.L. Bobok, N.I. Kioresku, Yu.L. Negritu, workers at the "Kishinevskiy Traktornyy Zavod" production association; and a number of others were also arrested and then released until the court reaches a decision.

Investigations are being conducted into individual organizers of the disorders whose identities have been established.

For readers' information:

On 2 March 1989 the Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has adopted a decree "On Making a Change to Article 263 of the Moldavian SSR Code on Administrative Law Violations." The decree gives people's courts (people's judges) the right to examine cases of violations of the procedure for organizing and holding gatherings, meetings, street marches, and demonstrations not only at the place where they are committed but also at the violator's place of residence.

Conference of Soviet Germans Adopts Charter

Society Formed, Chairman Elected

LD3103140389 Moscow TASS in English 1303 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 31 TASS—A new all-union public organisation—the "Revival" society of Soviet Germans—has been set up in the USSR. This is the first public organisation in the country formed according to national affiliation.

The society's three-day constituent conference rounded off its work here today by adopting the new organisation's charter and programme. 105 delegates, representing more than two million Soviet Germans, have discussed important problems of safeguarding and developing national culture, language and traditions. One of the society's goals is to help restore the autonomy of Soviet Germans. The conference elected the society's board. Scientist Heinrich Grout, 38, has become its first chairman.

Activists Call for 'German Autonomy'

PM0404100589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 89 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: " 'The USSR Is Our Motherland.' Society of Soviet Germans Created"]

[Text] The founding conference of representatives of the country's German population completed its work in Moscow 31 March after 3 days of sharp debate. More than 100 people who had decided to create the "Revival" sociopolitical and cultural-educational society of Soviet Germans participated in it.

The conference adopted the statutes and program and elected a 33-person coordinating committee. H. Grout became the society's chairman. It considers its most important task to be comprehensive promotion of the preservation and development of the national culture, language, and traditions. The society proclaimed the revival of the Soviet Germans' autonomy as one of its aims. As is known, an autonomous soviet socialist republic of Volga Germans existed in the USSR from 1924. However, it was liquidated at the beginning of the Great Patriotic War.

"I think," H. Wormsbecher, one of the new society's activists, said, "that Soviet Germans will appreciate the very fact that the 'Revival' Society, which is capable of expressing their aspirations and demands, will be officially registered in the country. It is now important to create a normal discussion situation around the idea of creating German autonomy."

Yu. Khaar, cochairman of "Revival," emphasized that the new organization supports the processes of restructuring and glasnost in the Soviet Union and hopes that they will also have a beneficial effect on resolving the Soviet Germans' problems. Our society, Yu. Khaar emphasized, does not intend to withdraw into a narrow national framework. Any USSR citizen can be a member of "Revival," regardless of nationality.

Speaking about the problem of Soviet Germans' emigration to the FRG, Yu. Khaar emphasized: "We are opposed to our compatriots' mass emigration, which would be a disaster for Soviet Germans. We receive many letters from our former fellow countrymen, who write that they would gladly return to the USSR if autonomy for Soviet Germans were restored. And this is understandable. The history of Germans living in Russia goes back more than 2 centuries. This is our motherland, this is the land where our forebears lived and where our children live."

Interview With Society Chairman

AU0104161589 Vienna Television Service in German 2000 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Interview with Jakob Fischer, chairman of the newly founded All-Union Association of Soviet Germans, by Raimund Loew on the occasion of a news conference given by the organization in Moscow on 31 March—recorded]

[Text] [Loew] What is the principal aim of the newly founded organization of the Soviet Germans?

[Fischer] The principal aim is the restoration of the autonomy of the Soviet Germans on the Volga, with the subsequent creation of national regions, of districts in Siberia, Kazakhstan, Central Asia, and other places where large numbers of Germans are living today.

[Loew] Why is it so important for you to reestablish an autonomous German republic?

[Fischer] It is important because not all Germans have the possibility today to preserve and further develop their independence, their language, their culture, and their customs. What we need is a center, a political and cultural center for Soviet Germans with German schools, universities, institutions, and cultural centers.

[Loew] Is this a realistic goal? The Soviet Union already has numerous nationality problems, and other peoples are living in these regions now.

[Fischer] We would like to stress that what we only want to restore justice on the basis of reason. The autonomy of the Volga Germans, the autonomy of the Soviet Germans, was first granted by Lenin at the beginning of the Soviet power in 1980 [as heard]. So we only demand full rehabilitation and the restoration of justice.

* Chernobyl's Aftereffects on Belorussian Oblasts

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[Report by BELTA correspondents Yevgeniy Gorelik and Aleksandr Kryzhanovskiy: "Predictions and Reality: Is the Concept Right? Notes on a Meeting in the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] **"In our opinion the article does not reflect the true picture of what has happened and what is happening in the affected regions." (A group led by the chief architect of Novorudok city—Matiyevskiy, Laman, Budilovich, Gayduk and others)**

"Thank you for the material, which at least says something about our life since the accident at the Chernobyl AES." (Gomel, Poroshina).

"Can 'clean' produce be grown on 'dirty' soil? I am not convinced, I do not believe it." (Gomeselmash, Yasinskiy).

"We believe that the interview was given by people who were not quite competent even though you called them specialists. We would like to hear the opinion of the radiologists." (workers at the Gomel Radiotechnical Plant—Agalov, Parkhomenko, Krivitskiy, Shigalev; a total of nine signatures).

We could go on and on quoting from the letters that have arrived at BELTA since publication of the material entitled "One Thousand Days after Chernobyl." There are many of them and they are quite diverse—in tone, depth of thinking, argument. But in most we hear a poorly concealed alarm and doubt: "I want to believe what is written but...."

The long absence of exhaustive information and specific details on the affected regions undoubtedly did nothing to cut short the rumors and hardly engendered a desire to trust the written word or the ardent appeals from leaders in various services and of various rank.

Unfortunately, many scientists who should, because of their profession, have brought home the truth to the masses, rarely travel to the "zone", but have instead, with no hint of color and without burdening themselves too heavily with argument, been issuing frightening predictions "from on high" that are not underpinned by any in-depth analysis of the situation, nor even the most elementary degree of competence. This was mentioned with bitterness by many of those who spoke at a meeting that took place in the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers to discuss urgent problems associated with the radiation situation in Gomel and Mogilev oblasts. The chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences Yu.A. Izrael, and vice president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences and director of the USSR Ministry of Health Institute of Biophysics, Hero of Socialist Labor Academician L.A. Ilin, were specially invited to the meeting from Moscow, along with a large group of experts and scientists from all-union departments and scientific research institutes.

As has already been reported in the press, the need for this discussion arose because the differing opinions of scientists and social commentators carried in the press and on television have engendered among some part of the populations in the affected regions uncertainty about the correctness of the recently adopted concept that it is safe to live on the territories affected by radioactive contamination. We recall that it was quite simple and is based on a single criterion—namely, the maximum dose of radiation that a person might receive throughout his entire life up to the age of 70. The limit was set at the level of 35 rem, which includes the accident dose, that is, the dose received during the first days following the accident.

The concept envisages a return to the normal tenor of life and the lifting of all restrictions on living conditions and the use of local produce. Undoubtedly, to this end specific measures must be implemented, to use the words of the specialists, "for engineering and agrotechnical decontamination." Wherever those measures do not produce the desired effect, the population must be resettled in other, safe places.

From the speech made by first deputy chairman of the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers V.G. Yevtukha, chairman of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau and Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers Commission on the Cleanup After the Accident at the Chernobyl AES:

Let me first recall some facts and figures. During the first year following the accident, almost 25,000 people were moved out of the affected zones. Almost 10,000 apartments in farmstead-type houses were built for them.

In the zone that is permanently monitored, where the level of contamination is in excess of 15 curies per square kilometer (415 populated points with a population of more than 100,000 inhabitants), work has been done to decontaminate all residential and public buildings, and a great deal of effort and funding have been used to restore proper amenities—road construction, water supplies, gas pipeline installations, vehicle parking areas, stores, bathhouses and other objects.

The population has been generally dispersed in these regions, and a consistent program is being implemented to provide health care for children and pregnant women; a system has been set up for scientific support in problems concerning safety in living on contaminated territories, and the import of clean produce has been organized.

The main result of these efforts has been that we do not have even a single case of impairment of people's health caused by any radiation effect. And the cumulative dose of irradiation does not exceed the set standards.

At the same time we have been convinced that engineering decontamination is not producing the desired results. The constant migration of radionuclides is hampering any significant reduction in the level of radiation. And we must therefore think seriously about priority use of funding to improve effectiveness to the maximum.

The additional calculations performed for some regions since adoption of the concept of safe living dictate a need for the staged resettlement of at least 85 populated points in the years immediately ahead. We must once again carefully analyze the "pros" and "consideration" for each settlement and village and make final decisions before the end of the year.

We have still been unable to reach the calculated indicators in lowering the level of contamination with radionuclides in products that we always have on our table, such as milk. Of course, it is far from simple to achieve this: we need a special system for producing fodder, and strict feeding rations, and we require the introduction of major changes in crop rotation; this cannot be done in just a year. But the fact is that the actual reduction is still only half the normatives calculated by the scientific centers.

A Special Opinion. V.S. Leonov, first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Mogilev Oblast Party Committee [Obkom]: "How Can We Live on This Land?"

During the first year following the accident, when they talked about the concept of safe residence, most scientists were talking about a figure of 70 rem over 70 years. In the oblast we started the cleanup after the accident by orienting ourselves on this limit. In regions subjected to radioactive contamination, new schools and kindergartens were built and new stores were opened. Hundreds of millions of rubles were spent in the first year after the accident to clean up the land. And suddenly a new concept that states that it is possible to live on the effected territories if the lifetime dose does not exceed 50 rem. We have become accustomed to accepting the authority of the scientists, and both during meetings with people and in conversations with them we oriented ourselves on this indicator.

However, the first doubts and concerns arose during the second year following the accident. People started to ask questions: why, in Bryansk and Kiev oblasts, on land where the level of radioactive contamination is the same as here, are people no longer living, have not been resettled? But we continued to rely on the conclusions with which we had been armed by the scientists, and we continued to persuade and argue.

A normal psychological atmosphere returned to the rayons, a normal regime of labor and leisure was restored, and the production of agricultural produce increased. There were weddings and children were born, and life returned to its normal tenor. And then, like a bolt from the blue, the scientists' new figures: not 50 rem but 35 rem in a lifetime. And the interesting thing is that no one offered any apology or admitted any error in the initial predictions. And this time, too, no one is signing off under the figure or 35 rem. Everyone is trying to convince us of the reliability of the final predictions, but it is unclear who is actually responsible for them. I already think that in this case, if it goes as far as having to resettle additional people because of these rapidly changing predictions, one signature, no matter how authoritative, is not enough. We need a law. A law for which the deputies can vote.

Moreover, according to the basic rules of sanitation dealing with accidental irradiation of the population, as confirmed by the USSR Ministry of Health, the procedure for evacuation should also be defined legislatively. And then, before they raise their hands, the deputies could consider whether or not tomorrow we shall see a new limit set at 24 rem or 15 rem. I do not exclude such a possibility. If I am wrong then let someone here today provide me with an answer and convince me to the contrary, for I am already ashamed to look people in the eye. And they know what to say to me: "They have wound you round their little finger and are leading you around by the nose."

So our oblast medical center is claiming that the condition of the children has recently deteriorated, and by comparisons with the "clean" zones, in the "dirty" zones the incidence of illness and weakened immunity is increasing.... Moreover, despite the assertions from the specialists and the all-union and republic agro-industrial committees, their recommendations for land melioration measures guaranteeing a reduction of radionuclides by a factor of 4 in agricultural products are not producing the desired results. And this is not only on territories where the level of contamination is higher than 15 curies per square kilometer, but also on land with significantly lower readings. We are concerned by the fact that today

we are spending another half a billion to restore amenities and carry out decontamination, and tomorrow it will turn out to have been in vain.

I could cite a whole series of questions crying out for an answer, such as interruptions in the supplies of clean produce, the lack of fire bricks for the fire boxes of furnaces—each of them will soon become a "nuclear reactor" they are building up so many radionuclides—and many other problems that are not being resolved.

With the chairman of the oblast soviet executive committe [oblispolkom] I have been haunting the threshold of the all-union and republic ministries and departments but attitudes toward our concerns leave something to be desired, to put it mildly. And if this continues, shall we not get these 35 rem also on those territories that are regarded as more or less all right?

I want you to understand me correctly; I would not like to sound like some kind of alarmist. It is important to have a final, scrupulously checked and well-considered concept for people to live safely on territory with a level of contamination not only of 15 to 40 curies or higher per square kilometer, but starting with 5 curies. I ask sincerely that we once again look at and clarify the criterion that should be established for evacuating people. And at how this resettlement should be carried out. For the list that I have of populated points for evacuation has been compiled without any kind of logic. For example, at the "Krasnopolskiy" State Farm [Sovkhoz] it is planned to first evacuate people from the central farmstead, and this means closing the school, the post office, the stores, the vehicle parking area, and so forth. And how will the rest of the villagers live and work, who according to the evacuation plan are second and third in line, after 2 or 3 years? There are many such collective farms [kolkhozes] and sovkhozes.

And what should I do, what should I say to people, and how should I explain the criteria for living safely by which we should be guided, and where can we live and where can we not live? I appeal to all members of the commission: think again about your proposals and recommendations, and substantiate them clearly and precisely. And give us a final answer.

The Opinion of a Specialist. "I Am Convinced That the Concept is Right." From the speech presented by vice president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences Academician L.A. Ilin.

You, respected Vasiliy Sevostyanovich, are using the method of half-truths, and this is quite impermissible. How is the concept being developed and how is it being perceived? It is not the personal whim of one man. There is a special USSR Ministry of Health interdepartmental commission that is called the National Commission on Radiation Protection. It was entrusted with the task of drawing up recommendations on various rules concerning radioactive irradiation of the population and of professional workers. Then these proposals are approved as a document of the USSR sanitation legislation. The commission includes scientists from various scientific disciplines who have worked in many institutes in the Soviet Union. I believe that the composition of the commission should include one or two researchers from Belorussia. This is what we have failed to do.

Now about maximum radiation doses. Neither 70 rem nor 50 rem in a lifetime has ever been quoted in any official document. The dose of 35 rem was introduced for the first time just recently. It was calculated by associates at our institute on the basis of generalization of an enormous mass of data obtained by specialists in Belorussia, the RSFSR and the Ukraine, using up-to-date calculation models based on interest concepts.

Before reaching this decision we made trips abroad, where I met with major foreign scientists working in this field. Many of them believe that this dose is too low. Moreover, in our national commission on radiation protection I had great difficulty in defending this figure. It should be noted that the figure is applied only in our country. We have included in this figure the dose received during the period of accidental irradiation, even though many people think that it would be possible to set the dose at 50 rem.

And now let us look in detail at what this concept gives us. The concrete calculations that we have done for each rayon in Mogilev, Gomel and Bryansk oblasts indicate that over a lifetime of 70 years starting in 1986, given that all restrictions are removed, an additional 0.5 percent to 1.5 percent of cancer cases above the natural level will occur. These values cannot be detected on a practical scale and it will be impossible to study them.

The set dose of 35 rem is very rigid and at the same time it gives due consideration to the real situation. But, I repeat, in order to ensure this we need a great deal of effort and material spending, because it envisages the removal of all restrictions. And in order to ensure that this level is not exceeded, it is essential also to be concerned with clean produce and a safe living environment.

How can this be done? I am stating officially that we shall insist that not one single person nor one single population in these regions should receive a dose higher than 35 rem. The republic must offer its own specific proposals on how this concept is to be maintained. I am convinced that it is right.

If you have any doubts about the correctness of our recommendations, please ask us to review them; we shall not object. It might be possible to invite a neutral interest commission to have its say. With regard to pieces published by some of our colleagues abroad, they are doing nothing but making us smile. Speaking on television, Mr Gale has already offered a prediction of 70,000 additional tumors. And then he had to change his opinion and state that he is not a specialist in this field.

There has been talk here about increased disease in Belorussia. Yes, and pieces have been published in the newspapers. I shall not get involved in a long discussion, but merely cite the mean figures for the dynamics of cancers. The natural increase to the level for the 1978-1982 five-year plan were, for Gomel Oblast, 13.4 percent, and for Mogilev Oblast 15.9 percent. For comparison let me say that the figure for the republic as a whole is 16.6 percent.

I would like to add that the main iodine impact was in the Ukraine, while according to union republics figures, in Belorussia and the RSFSR the mean dose to the thyroid was 30 rem.

To what consequences might this lead? Possibly to minor deviations in nodule growth in the thyroid field. The public health organs and other republic organizations should provide maximum help for physicians in making a prompt diagnosis of these changes. The rayons should have special instruments from the Toshiba company that our industry is still not producing. We managed to get 20 of those instruments only with great difficulty and this, of course, is very few.

[Question from the floor] How do we explain to the kolkhoz farmers why they have been working in that zone that we now propose to evacuate?

[L.A. Ilin] The fault here does not lie with the concept. After the accident the main thing was to define the field of damage and decide what to do there. There were no grounds whatever for evacuating the population. Moreover, it was suggested that by carrying out a large number of measures it would be possible to ensure that it was safe to live there.

But the hopes for decontamination were not justified. Of course, it can be argued that a great deal of money has already been spent. But let us not measure people's lives in rubles. Wherever they may receive a dose of more than 35 rem in their life they must be resettled. It is not an evacuation but a planned resettlement.

[Question from the floor] In October last year the USSR Ministry of Health issued normatives for the content of radioactive substances in foodstuffs. But they do not include food obtained from the forests—mushrooms and berries. Does this mean that they can be picked? Even though the mushrooms are ten times more contaminated than the milk?

[L.A. Ilin] When these normatives were calculated we proceeded from the actual presence of mushrooms for food in the diet. We had cases in which dozens of tons of tea were destroyed merely because they measured the number of curies per kilogram, forgetting that we use only a few grams in our tea.

[Question from the floor] The press and radio and television are engaged in polemic on the Chernobyl problems. The newspaper ZVYAZDA is printing extracts from a book by Gale and Hauser entitled "The Final Warning." Why have our scientists, including you, not been involved in the discussion? Do you know how the average reader regards what the foreign scientist has said?

[L.A. Ilin] This is not all so simple. Unfortunately, instead of getting on with our business, we must sometimes compose answers to the number complaints arriving in the Ministry of Health. I am convinced that the mass media are opposing our publications on this subject. Here is an example. Three months ago associates at our institute wrote an article for IZVESTIYA and it has still not been published, and they are saying that it was lost.

Why have we not engaged in discussion with Dr Gale? Because "according to Gale" the number of casualties is periodically lowered. I have a very high regard for Dr Gale as a specialist in the field of bone marrow transplants, but that is all. No serious scientist, especially in our field, has ever speculated with the figures in such a delicate sphere of medicine as radiology. Many people probably remember Gale's initial prediction, which caused a panic in Kiev. And a year ago he published an article in PRAVDA in which he essentially agreed with our assessments of the situation. A true scientist does not change his convictions so easily. And at his press conference within the framework of the interest meeting of experts on the medical aspects of the accident at the Chernobyl AES in May last year in Kiev he stated that it would be a far from simple matter to detect any increased mortality from cancer. It is so insignificant, Gale said, that, for example, if the people of Kiev give up smoking then they will save considerably more lives than might be lost from the consequences of the accident at Chernobyl. What can I say; comment is superfluous.

On the other hand, scientists are avoiding statements on the range of problems associated with Chernobyl because they do not see the prospects and they do not believe them.

We have three times proposed to your Ukrainian writers that we meet with them. And what did one former Minsk and now Moscow writer say? I shall not come to see you because you will blind me with figures. What kind of approach is that?

[Question from the floor] Two contradictory opinions have taken shape: one is that all people living in the zone of permanent monitoring should be resettled. At the same time 6,000 people from Gomel Oblast who were evacuated in 1986 are demanding that they return. Can these two approaches both exist at the same time?

[L.A. Ilin] A specific example from the Ukraine. At one time it was decided to evacuate two populated points. New settlements were built for the inhabitants but they categorically refused to go. Why? The population also demanded traveling expenses and compensation for

their housing. As you can see, problems that are not medical but social in nature arise. How to provide a recipe? I do not know; a decision must be reached in each specific case. Even though this is not a simple matter. For example, how to withdraw the R30 of compensation in such a way that people do not become bitter? In our concept, it must be withdrawn.

[Question from the floor] Nevertheless, Leonid Andreyevich, clarify whether or not there has been an increase in the incidence of disease.

[L.A. Ilin] We have official figures from the USSR Ministry of Health that show that the incidence of disease caused by the radiation factor both for the republic as a whole and for the affected regions in particular is not rising at all.

It surprises me that these are your national figures but for some reason you have not used them.

A Special Opinion. "A State Program Is Needed." A.S. Kamay, first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Gomel Obkom.

As a person who has been involved since the very first days in the Chernobyl troubles I would like to say that in general a great deal has been done, not only from the standpoint of how much has been built and how much has been decontaminated, but also from the standpoint of studying and clarifying this complex situation.

On the territory of Gomel Oblast almost 60,000 people live on territory where the level of radioactive contamination is 15 curies per square kilometer or higher, while more than 107,000 people live on territory where the level is 5 curies to 15 curies. Imagine how those 170,000 people feel when they hear on the radio or read in the press that in 1986 the oblast leaders refused help from abroad. This, of course, is a lie. No one offered any help. But it is all the same to people whether or not there was any new political thinking. They simply compare the tragedy of Chernobyl with Armenia.... Today, after meetings with the voters that continued through to six or seven o'clock, I have hundreds of questions; you can imagine the kind of psychological and emotional stress among a large segment of the population; they are almost having heart attacks.

In general the situation is not simple; there is nothing to be gained in trying to hide this. It is already quite clear that in those zones where there is a probability of receiving a dose of more than 35 rem over a lifetime it is necessary to think about resettling people. There should be in a single position with regard to this problem, and a state program is needed to eliminate the consequences of the accident. It should be signed off by scientists and by the leaders of all-union and republic ministries and departments connected with the problems of accident cleanup. This binds us all in a single knot and is forcing us to work better.

It seems to me that the scientists and specialists should again check the situation at those populated points where they recommend evacuation. Take, for example, the village of Bartolomeyevka in Vetkovskiy Rayon. According to the predictions its inhabitants may receive doses of 37 rem over their lifetimes. But if "clean" produce is brought in, people will not receive even half that dose. It would be a good thing if over the course of the next two or three months the radiation situation be investigated from this standpoint at each specific populated point. We are asking for the active involvement of republic scientists in this.

We are concerned that the zone where the level of contamination is less than 15 curies per square kilometer has fallen outside the range of special attention. It is understandable that this is not a zone that is strictly monitored, but the situation is such that we may receive up to 60 percent of contaminated milk from that zone, and on individual sectors up to 70 percent. I might add that because of the disorganized system for feeding cattle, providing supplies of clean fodder, and carrying out radiological monitoring, we have already 48,000 cows. Just imagine what that means for the oblast! And we are still holding almost 40,000 cattle inside the zone, and for 3 years the milk has not been used. The oblast's resources are pouring away. Each year we are receiving up to 33 percent more milk and up to 30 percent more meat, of which we are producing 142 kilograms per capita. This is more than in the United States. But demand is only 63 kilograms.... The fact of the matter is that the oblast is at a very low level in providing ecologically clean produce. And there is no other; the cows have been eliminated. I have appealed to specialists at the Institute of Agricultural Radiology: we need your recommendations, we said, on questions of applying lime and other soil-improvement measures on territories where the level is 5 curies to 15 curies per square kilometer. Then we can restore the ecological balance in this zone, which today we are trying unsuccessfully to do in zones with a higher level.

I would also like to say that the lack of personal dosimeters in the oblast is seriously influencing people's psychological and emotional attitudes. What is happening here is simply tragic. Dosimeters should be in plentiful supply so that people wishing to acquire them can do so. The emotional stress must be relieved.

It is high time to finally bring proper order to everything. And if in our haste and passion we have forgotten something then we must catch up. From our armchairs we are deciding the fates of hundreds of thousands of people. This misfortune demands sincere truth. This—this misfortune—can be healed only by relying on strictly checked scientific data. And only by having in mind a clear and exact picture can we determine where our main efforts should be focused today.

What I find particularly surprising is the fact that when it comes to making specific decisions most specialists prefer to remain silent. The medical people and leaders

also remain silent. We operate on the old grandfather principle: If people are alive then everything is in order. Meanwhile, we know that much of what must be done is not being done 100 percent. So there can be only one solution to the situation that has been created, namely, adopt a state program to clean up after the accident. It is essential to lay down by law the volumes of work that must be done. And the financial and material resources and the equipment and everything else that is needed must be put into that program. And it should be planned for many years ahead.

The Opinion of a Specialist. "I Am Fully Responsible for the Realistic Nature of the Predictions." From the speech of Yu.A. Izrael, chairman of the State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control.

First I would like to respond to the question from the first secretary of the Gomel Obkom A.S. Kamay regarding the need for scientists to monitor territory with a level of radioactive contamination from 5 to 15 curies per square kilometer. This has already been done.

I also totally reject the complaint leveled against us regarding predictions done from offices. From the very first days of the Chernobyl tragedy, together with a group of specialists and other scientists, which also included representatives from your republic, we have been working on contaminated territory to clarify the radioactive situation.

How have we and how are we obtaining information? Immediately after the explosion in the No 4 reactor at the Chernobyl AES, in compliance with a decision reached by the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, each group and then a commission was organized, which today is still responsible for the correctness of the assessment of the radiation situation. I am its chairman.

The radiation situation around the reactor was significant from the descriptions in the civil defense handbooks. A large quantity of radioactive material was spewed from the destroyed reactor for almost 10 days. Both in theory and in practice the stream of radioactive gases coming from the reactor could have contaminated any city and the countryside. Therefore, in the first days we carefully measured not only the level of radiation but also the wind direction. Dozens of helicopters and aircraft and weather service ground stations took part in the work, and units of chemical troops were deployed in the region of the accident. During the night of 27 April the radiation situation deteriorated sharply. And at midday, on the basis of our data, the government commission decided to evacuate. The zone delineated was territory on which the radiation level would presumably exceed 5 milliroentgen per hour. In Belorussia it was additionally decided, quite apart from our decision, to evacuate the most "fragile" part of the population—children and pregnant women—from the zones where the radiation level had reached 3 milliroentgens per hour. This was a correct decision. That was the end of the first stage.

The second stage—restrictions and monitoring—still continues and will last for decades. But today we should have a reliable strategy for managing and living on contaminated territories. In order to devise such a strategy we must have a perfect knowledge of the radiation situation. What is this situation?

During the accident a considerable quantity of radioactive elements were ejected, and many of them have several isotopes. There was no radioactive dust cloud as such. The ejected matter was an aerosol made up of radionuclides which has been settling out very slowly. And because of the weak and variable wind direction the track of this cloud on the ground is irregular in shape and broken in structure. Different radiation levels are observed even on the territory of a single populated point.

All the heaviest and most dangerous elements fell within the 30-kilometer zone. But volatile isotopes were ejected differently from the reactor. As a result of an entire series of protective measures in certain zones of the reactor, the temperature rose. Elements such as cesium were made volatile and they naturally "flew off," carried by the stream of gas coming out of the reactor. This was our greatest misfortune. The total amount of cesium entering the atmosphere was 15 percent of the total amount in the reactor. That was five times greater than the other isotopes.

Starting on 8 May and through to the end of the month, because of the changes in wind direction, additional zones of contamination were formed in Mogilev, Gomel and Brest oblasts. On the European territory of the USSR airborne reconnaissance found another five zones: in Tula, Orel and Ryazan oblasts, in the Baltic area, and in Rovno, Cherkassy, Ivano-Frankovsk and Vinnitsa oblasts.

I know that in Belorussia maps of the radiation situation have already been published. Our specialists who have been working in this direction since the early days support the viewpoint that in zones where cesium-^{137} contamination is less than 15 curies per square kilometer, predicted radiation doses for the population will not exceed the established maximum of 35 rem over a lifetime. And the probability of receiving that dose applies only to people who spend the entire 70 years of their lives there, starting from April 1986.

What, then, must be done, and how should we live henceforth? This is a complicated question.

Let us assume that the probability is that these 35 rem will be received over a lifetime from external and internal radiation. Should people move? But the greater part of the radiation dose is internal and it can be significantly lowered by eliminating contaminated milk, meat and other products from the diet. I would like to say that tests have shown experimentally that if internal radiation is eliminated then the limit of 35 rem will not be exceeded. Hence, for each populated point the question of resettlement must be decided on a case-by-case basis:

if there is a possibility that clean produce can be obtained there is no problem, but if this cannot be done—and the answer is unambiguous—there must be resettlement.

It is necessary to take into account other opportunities for providing protection against the entry of radionuclides into the body. The main danger is from cesium-137. Various proposals have been made on this score. For example, completely remove the top layer of soil and bury it. It is impossible to do this on the practical plane, and the humus layer in your regions is not very thick; we would just be removing the fertile soil. During the decontamination of populated points this method may, of course, be used, even though it is not totally effective. We have repeatedly observed that as a result of secondary migration of radionuclides, earlier levels of radiation have been restored.

From our viewpoint the most radical path is land melioration. The essence of this is to leave the radioisotopes of cesium in the soil but prevent them from entering the food chain. There are ways to do this. They include the application of alumina, zeolites and potassium fertilizers. We have even succeeded in obtaining clean milk from territory where the level of contamination is 40 curies.

And finally. For the entire country we are now recommending the resettlement of 36 populated points; of these, 20 are in Belorussia. In some it will be possible to achieve a significant improvement in the radiation situation, without resorting to extreme measures, only by using the methods we have talked about here. I guarantee it.

From the Standpoint of an Expert. "Everything Is in Order with Immunity." B.V. Pinegin, sector chief at the USSR Ministry of Health Institute of Immunology.

We have analyzed the data on the immune status of children in Mogilev Oblast and should state that in terms of the main parameter characterizing the the immune system, namely, infection syndrome, there are no impairments. Moreover, in terms of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases the trend is downward.

I would like to talk in more detail about chronic bronchitis. This disease is a unique concomitant of immune deficiency in children. Here are the comparative figures on the numbers of cases of acute pneumonia in children (per 10,000) for 1984-1985 and 1987-1988: Krasnopolskiy Rayon, 133 and 174; Kostyukovskiy Rayon, 120 and 89; Cherikovskiy Rayon, 364 and 369; Slavgorodshkiy Rayon, 344 and 181; Bykhovskiy Rayon, 299 and 203. Similar figures have been obtained in analysis of the incidence of acute respiratory diseases, dysentery and hepatitis in children.

Then an analysis was made in the Institute of Radiation Medicine of data on a quite large contingent of children—235 from Krasnopolskiy Rayon, 260 from Zhlobinskiy Rayon and 71 children evacuated from Pripyat city in 1986. The studies were conducted using the recommendations and standards drawn up by the Institute of Immunology and used in the laboratory of the Minsk Medical Institute. In terms of average parameters for all indexes for the immune status, no significant changes were found compared to a control group.

But we would like these problems in the affected regions to be given more attention. I repeat, our commission has concluded that there is no impairment of the immune system in children in these regions, but they should be constantly observed; we are proposing that clinical immunology laboratories be opened in Gomel and Mogilev for constant monitoring of the immune status not only of children but also adults.

A Proposal from a Specialist. "It Is Time To Change the Diagnosis." Ye.F. Sukhorukov, first deputy chairman of the Belorussian SSR State Agro-Industrial Committee.

We think that the recommendations of the specialists from the USSR State Committee Agro-Industrial Committee to engage in agricultural production on territories with an unfavorable radiation situation, made during the first year following the accident, although providing some effect have now become outdated and are not creating the conditions essential to obtain the "cleanest possible" produce. They should be re-examined.

It has turned out that the amounts of mineral fertilizers that we are receiving for agricultural work on "sick" land are inadequate. Moreover, today what we need is new combination fertilizers containing the absorbents that scientists are recommending. It is necessary to re-orient some fertilizer plants to produce the output for which demand has increased in connection with the radiation situation in the affected regions. The Ministry of Health, the State Agro-Industrial Committee and the USSR Gosplan can help us in this matter. There would be agreement.

One more thing: the funding that we are receiving for land improvement measures and for social development in affected regions is not specified by law and is inadequate. This is all affecting the activity of the republic State Agro-Industrial Committee in the cleanup following the accident at the Chernobyl AES.

The Viewpoint of an Expert. "Treatment Methods Are Known." A.P. Povolyayev, deputy chief of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee Main Administration for Scientific Research and Experimental-Production Establishments.

The level of radioactive contamination in milk can be realistically reduced by a factor of 4. This was done in 1987 and even earlier. All that is required is to organize regular supplies of radionuclide-free fodder for the farms. For example, if in that same Bartolomeyevka in Vetkovskiy Rayon animals are switch to "clean" rations the need for evacuation is totally eliminated.

We have said repeatedly and we shall keep on repeating that the republic agro-industrial committee needs to be "stir itself." Providing people with "clean" milk will for many villages eliminate the question of resettlement.

What road are we proposing? On territories where the level of radioactive contamination is up to 15 curies per square kilometer, the regrassing of natural pastures will guarantee the elimination of all questions. It is essential to cultivate pasture and hand it over to the population by enactment so that people would know that it is their pasture for many decades. Where the level of radioactive contamination is 15 to 40 curies per square kilometer it is necessary to select arable land and grass it. If this is done the level of internal irradiation in the population will not exceed 20 to 25 rem over a 70-year lifetime.

Difficult Work Ahead.

Summing up the results of the discussion, the chairman of the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers M.V. Kovalev emphasized that the criteria derived from the concept should, to judge from the arguments of the scientists, guarantee safety for those living in the zone being permanently monitored. What conclusions should be drawn from this? We should undeviatingly comply with the recommendations that have been offered by the specialists.

Many comrades have rightly focused attention on the territories where the radiation levels are below 15 curies per square kilometer. We have thought for a long time that no special measures are required there. The possibility is not excluded that we have been wrong. And in this zone recommendations should be drawn up on the basis of a study of conditions at each farm in order to achieve absolutely clean produce. And we shall gradually prepare people for resettlement from those regions of so-called high risk if there is a threat that more than 35 rem will be received.

A few words about the work of our departments, which bear the responsibility for affairs in the zone. The State Agro-Industrial Committee can and must do a great deal. Unfortunately, we have too often been forced to talk about shortcomings in its activity. Here, for example, is a simple example. We have been talking for along time about the shortages of effective complex fertilizers that noticeably reduce cesium migration from the soil into plants. There are other agents capable of improving our damaged land. But what has been done in these 3 years to eliminate these shortages? We drew up a memorandum for the all-union government and did not even include these problems. Why not, who was at fault? The State Agro-Industrial Committee must draw up on an operational basis detailed proposals on all problems connected with the production of clean produce. These proposals must be strictly differentiated according to the rayons and territories. Here, unremitting attention should be given to the zone monitored periodically where, if required, we are obliged to introduce special technologies, just as has been done on territories with a high level of radioactive contamination.

Today we have also been convinced that people still have many questions to ask of workers in the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Health. They have done a great deal, but the powerful scientific and research potential gathered here under this roof today has not been used with adequate efficiency. And the fact that we hear the proposal to set up an immunity monitoring laboratory for the first time from an all-union institute does not say much for the Belorussian medical people. There is no need to fear complex problems; we shall find ways of solving them together.

I think that we could have organized the production of personal dosimeters long ago if we had had greater persistence and, if you like, presence of mind. We are giving V.I. Kritskiy and his services a special assignment, namely, to find the necessary equipment and organize the production of dosimeters. Providing them for people today means removing psychological stress. This is very important.

And finally. We must undoubtedly devise a state program to eliminate the longterm consequences of the accident, giving due consideration to the experience that we have gained over these past 3 years. The program should be on many levels, and it should be comprehensive and include all aspects of people's life and work on the affected territories. We shall be obliged to underpin it with a serious scientific and material base.

A postscript: Following the discussion we have made it clear that the standard of 35 rem in a lifetime, which forms the basis of the concept for living safely, has been approved by the chairman of the National Commission for Radiation Protection, Academician L.A. Ilin, USSR Minister of Health Ye.I. Chazov, Chief State Physician for Sanitation A.I. Kondrusev, and Chairman of the Government Commission for the Cleanup Following the Accident at the Chernobyl AES, B.Ye. Shcherbina.

In accordance with sanitation laws in force in our country any failure to comply with this standard will entail disciplinary, administrative or criminal liability.

OGONEK Editor Discusses Restructuring, Elections

Interview Shown on Vienna Television

AU0304210289 Vienna Television Service in German 2000 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Otto Hoermann report on his interview with Vitaliy Korotich, editor in chief of the Soviet magazine OGONEK; date and place not given; recorded Korotich statements in Russian with superimposed German translation]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted]

Vitaliy Korotich is editor in chief of the Soviet magazine OGONEK. He is a pioneer of glasnost and restructuring. He has repeatedly been attacked by the opponents of restructuring in the USSR.

[Begin Korotich recording] I do not think that restructuring will end soon. Some experts in the West have their connections to the East, because in our country, too, talk like this [that restructuring will fail] is being heard. If restructuring fails, this will be a disaster for the Soviet Union and for the system. Then we will become a Third World country before the year 2000. Then the world will be very unsafe because a large and hungry country exists in the world. It will simply be better if restructuring does not fail. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin Korotich recording] I think that the so-called Brezhnev Doctrine is at an end. Now every nation really should do what it wants—Cuba, Hungary, Poland, everyone. The time is over when the omniscent Soviet Union brought blessings to everyone by force. Today this is no longer possible. I think that the East European countries have reached a new, more mature stage of cooperation—cooperation between partners with equal rights, who are interested in togetherness. Equal partners—one is not shouting at the other one, this is very important. [end recording]

Interviewed on Vienna Radio

AU0404085489 Vienna Domestic Service in German 0500 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Report on interview with Vitaliy Korotich, editor in chief of the Soviet magazine OGONEK, by Christian Schueller in Vienna; date not given; recorded Korotich statements in English]

[Text] Panic is spreading in Moscow, reports the prominent journalist Vitaliy Korotich, a connoisseur of the Kremlin. Above all the functionaries of the old guard, who are now afraid of losing their lifetime position, have been seized with panic. However, the reformers at the head of the party, who did not expect such a strong protest by voters, are also confused. Korotich himself also admits that he is amazed at many details of the election result.

[Begin Korotich recording] I do not know how Boris Yeltsin's triumph is to be interpreted. Three weeks ago, Yeltsin was for me a completely normal man, that is, at the same time a product and a victim of our system. He was a dissident whom I supported. But now I do not know what to think of his election. Either our official propaganda is extremely silly because the witch-hunt against Yeltsin shortly before the election had to result in his victory, or he is part of calculated plan preparing an alternative to Gorbachev. [end recording]

Be that as it may. Korotich believes that Moscow's citizens have also voted for a concrete program: better supplies and more democracy. When asked whether, in contrast to this, democracy is not on the point of becoming bogged down—after all, the election of the president has been postponed—and whether there is not a tug-of-war for the composition of the new parliament, Korotich answers:

[Begin Korotich recording] At any rate, the parliament we will get is rather strange. Representatives of the musical society and even delegates from the philatelic association will have their seats there. This may work at first. However, as a next step we need a parliament that is really elected democratically and directly. Until the present day we have not even heard in what way the People's Deputies Congress is to elect this new parliament. [end recording]

Vitaliy Korotich himself will be a deputy in the Congress of People's Deputies. The party apparatus has tried in vain to prevent his election. Even the Russian-nationalist Pamyat movement was mobilized to beat Korotich. But the rival candidates were defeated. However, in spite of all that, will the conservatives not remain strong enough to prevent Gorbachev from being elected president? Will they not use the time to regroup themselves?

[Begin Korotich recording] These people are now in panic. For they have seen that the voters simply strike them off the list. They know that there will soon be elections again, that is, regional elections. Gorbachev and Yeltsin are far away, almost like demigods. However, the next elections concern the functionaries whom people know themselves. Thus, I believe that some are afraid with good reason. [end recording]

Vitaliy Korotich firmly believes that Soviet society is undergoing a process of maturation. However, what does he think of the fact that in an opinion poll 50 percent were against further discussing the past under Stalin? After all, OGONEK, Korotich's magazine, is one of the forerunners of this debate.

[Begin Korotich recording] I am not in favor of arresting people today. However, one should know who was who at that time. We believe today that there were 40 million victims of Stalin. If that is true, there must have been millions of henchmen. [end recording]

One of the sharpest critics of de-Stalinization was Yegor Ligachev. He lost his position as chief ideologist. Instead, he is today responsible for agriculture, a field that is at least equally important. Thus, one has to ask oneself whether one is not forced to take a step back for each step forward.

[Begin Korotich recording] Ligachev is responsible for agriculture. That is to say, he will become more quickly unpopular than Gorbachev. One single bad harvest is enough. I believe that today the leaders are held together by the enormous problems they have to solve. They are even forced to cooperate. [end recording]

Will Gorbachev certainly be elected? Korotich needs some time to think.

[Begin Korotich recording] Maybe, I do not know. But yes, I now believe that he will. However, he has to offer something to the people and give them something, even a piece of bread. Then it will be impossible to defeat him. [end recording]

And what about censorship? Was it abolished?

No, the censors are still there, Korotich says. However, today one can discuss things with them. They prohibit something and we nevertheless print it, at least sometimes, he states.

Ulyanovsk Oblast Misdemeanors Reported

PM0304094489 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Mar 89 Morning Edition p 2

[Unattributed report on response by V. Ilyasov, deputy prosecutor of Ulyanovsk Oblast, under the rubric "After an IZVESTIYA Article": " 'Reworked Facts' (IZVESTIYA No 34)"]

[Text] The facts set forth in V. Razboynikov's article have been checked by the oblast prosecutor's office, and they are fully in accordance with reality, V. Ilyasov, deputy prosecutor of Ulyanovsk Oblast, informed the editorial office.

The following measures were adopted on the basis of all these facts. The Ulyanovsk prosecutor has brought criminal proceedings against former militia Lieutenant Colonel G.M. Elgart, a pickpocket, and the case will soon be heard by the court. By order of the chief of the Internal Affairs Administration, Elgart was dismissed from the militia organs, and he was also expelled from the CPSU.

By order of the chief of the Internal Affairs Administration, Captain of Internal Services V.V. Timoshkin and Senior Lieutenant of Militia K.Sh. Khayrullin, senior inquiry inspector at the Leninskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department, were dismissed from the militia organs for driving while drunk.

The oblast prosecutor's office has instituted criminal proceedings in the case of citizen K.'s being taken unlawfully to the sobering-up station and unauthorized methods being used against her.

On a submission of the oblast prosecutor's office, Senior Lieutenant V.A. Anisimov, duty officer at the Dimitrovgrad City Internal Affairs Department sobering-up station, and militiamen A.E. Devzheyev, V.G. Khramyshkin, and G.M. Aliyev were dismissed from the militia organs.

Disciplinary measures were also adopted against Junior Sergeant of Militia M.N. Pichugin, inspector of the Internal Affairs Directorate State Automobile Inspectorate, for unjustifiably taking juvenile D. Medvedev to the sobering-up station detention unit, and against Lieutenant Colonel of Militia V.G. Seliverstov, chief of Leninskiy Rayon Internal Affaris Department, for failing to take the necessary measures against his subordinates Borisov and Kuvaldin.

A.Ye. Borisov, senior superintendent of criminal investigation at Leninskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department, was severely reprimanded for the unjustified detention of two juveniles.

Detailed reports on all the above violations were sent to the CPSU oblast committee by the oblast prosecutor's office.

Lawyer Comments on 'Unclear' Crime Figures

PM3103155589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 89 Morning Edition p 3

[Article by A. Larin, doctor of juridical sciences: "Criminal Statistics and Reality"—first six paragraphs are reader's letter]

[Text] Not so long ago IZVESTIYA's issue No 46 published for the first time in many years data on crime in our country. This unprecedented emergence of glasnost in a sphere which has hitherto been closed to the people can only be welcomed. Nevertheless, having spent almost 40 years working in the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] organs, I cannot fail to express my perplexity at the unprofessional approach toward analyzing the crime situation in our country.

It is, after all, impossible to mechanically add up all categories of crime and use the total thus produced to draw conclusions about the rise or decline of crime in the country. Furthermore, this method distorts the real picture of the state of affairs in the struggle against breaches of the law. For example, the number of embezzlement cases is preceded by a "minus" sign. What does this mean: Are there fewer embezzlers now? Or has the militia's activeness in their detection declined? It is unclear.

Nor is it permissible to include breaches of traffic safety and transport utilization rules in the total number of crimes: Their number is proportionately large, but the overwhelming majority of these breaches are unintentional.

Of course, in many respects this is the effect of the MVD's lack of a scientifically substantiated criterion for analyzing the crime situation. So liberties should not be taken with statistical indicators, as the newspaper did, taking its cue from the USSR MVD.

I hope that my remarks will be published and commented on.

[Signed] Militia Colonel, Retired, A. Karasik, Ufa

Moscow—The classification and declassification of criminal statistics are political actions. During the twenties these statistics were published and discussed in the open

press in our country. But an end was put to this as far back as the early thirties. Jails and camps were filled with "inmates" by the million while the criminals who wielded power went on the rampage; all this was shrouded in secrecy. Secrecy made it possible to maintain a false semblance of success regarding the crime situation.

The current publications are an important step toward the affirmation of glasnost. It ought to be noted, however, that the truism "statistics know everything" is somewhat exaggerated.

And so IZVESTIYA published data on the crime situation in which the mass readership immediately perceived an alarming fact: A significant growth of crime involving violent actions was recorded in 1988.

Attention is drawn by the sudden jumps in indicators. Large-scale social processes are usually characterized by stability and inertia. But here, as we can see from the published tables, the number of murders (it is unclear whether this includes cases of involuntary manslaughter) increased 14.1 percent, the number of cases of grievous bodily harm increased 31.6 percent, and the number of robberies increased by more than 44.4 percent over just 1 year.

Do these figures reflect a real rise in crime? Yes, when it comes to people's deaths, the picture is most likely real—here all the cases are registered. Clearly there has been a really sharp increase in the number of violent offenses.

The mechanical reduction of the production and sale of alcohol initially reduced the "flood" of crimes against citizens' health and lives. But the underlying causes of drunkenness remained! As a result moonshining, the consumption of industrial and cosmetic fluids containing alcohol, and the illegal trade in alcoholic beverages shot up. Thus the pendulum of crime, having reached its lowest point, started swinging upwards.

But the correlations between certain indicators are perplexing. For example, if the increased incidence of grievous bodily harm and murder includes a particularly alarming and tangible increase in street crime, how is one to explain the "lag" in hooligan actions, which are usually also street crime?

One reason may be the vague definition of hooliganism in the law: "Actions in gross violation of public order and expressing obvious disrespect for society...distinguished by...inordinate cynicism or particular impudence." But where is the dividing line between gross and ordinary violations, between obvious and implied disrespect, between inordinate and normal cynicism, between particular and ordinary impudence?

During the pursuit of an "unsystematic" repressive-criminal policy, this vagueness made it possible to treat hooliganism as extremely widespread. Harmless mischief and family rows frequently resulted in harsh punishment. This, as we can see, was followed once more by a lurch to the other extreme using the vagueness of the legal formula; of course, the statistics have taken on an appearance which arouses no particular concern (a 4.4-percent growth). Meanwhile, people cannot walk the streets at night because of hooligans not just in Kazan but also in other cities. I assume that this is the actual cause of the rise of "inexplicably" frequent crimes against the person.

It has been known for a long time that the shortage of many goods, inflation, and the starker contrasts in people's living standards gradually encourage mercenary crime. And it was almost to be expected that theft of state property increased by 25 percent and theft of personal property already by 36.6 percent. But here is a question: Why then has there been a fall in the number of cases of embezzlement of state and public property by misappropriation, waste, or abuse of official position? And what a fall—9.8 percent! (Incidentally, this was the indicator on which Militia Col Comrade Karasik focused his professional attention.) What is behind this "falling percentage"? Are there really fewer embezzlers? Or has the militia's activeness in their detection declined?

Unfortunately, it seems to me that the statistical indicator in question does not reflect the true state of affairs. The point is that we are talking about crimes which are, as a rule, conspiracies. They are committed by "white collar" personnel, by officials; naturally, without using crowbars or picking locks. They are frequently leaders of enterprises and organizations.

Normally it is up to Struggle Against Embezzlement of Socialist Property and Speculation officials to institute such cases. The investigations are complex and labor-intensive, and they often prompt opposition from corrupt representatives of power. Moreover, courts have recently enhanced their demands regarding the standards of investigation, while cadre turnover in law enforcement organs leads to a shortage of specialists in the detection of economic crime. All this has an effect on the indicators, which, more often than not, indicate only insufficient activeness in the detection of embezzlers and their corrupt patrons.

Another typical indicator is that of swindling, which has supposedly also declined by 9.8 percent. But what about the so-called "thimbleriggers," an occupation to which many swindlers have quickly switched, changing the routine methods of their "traditional" activity? Alas, criminal statistics do not reach as far as them.

Something similar is also happening with speculation. Its rapid spread in the country has always been and still is prompted by shortages of clothing, footwear, and foodstuffs. And yet the growth indicator in the published statistics is rather modest—4.3 percent. Could one possible explanation be the fact that some cooperatives have recently—as reported by the press—been really abusing their position by buying goods from the stores and, investing hardly any labor in them, reselling them at

sky-high prices? I find it difficult to say either way. But law enforcement organs evidently still have to learn to differentiate between socially useful activity by cooperatives and speculation.

It is impossible to overlook the fact that a sizable proportion of crimes still goes altogether unrecorded and constitutes so-called latent (invisible) crime. The obvious reason is the fact that, first, citizens have lost their social activeness and simply do not report crimes which they know about, and second, militia and prosecutor's office staffers themselves do not always make the necessary efforts to expose and fully solve the crimes. Furthermore, at times they even cover up information about crimes—it is, after all, simpler to do nothing! In 1988, for example, there were investigations of complaints about crimes being covered up by staffers of USSR MVD organs. About 1 million (!) of them were confirmed. It would be interesting to know what effect this had on the statistics for 1988.

Along with data about the number of crimes committed, it is equally important to know the number of persons against whom criminal proceedings were instituted, how many crimes imputed by the investigation were redefined by the courts, how many people were sentenced, and how many were acquitted.

Just as a photograph cannot give a complete impression of a sculpture, data about the initial stage of the criminal process do not offer us a true picture of crime: The statistics produced by organs investigating crimes and filing charges may not coincide with judicial statistics. After all, the ultimate answer to the question of how many and what specific crimes have been committed can be provided only by justice organs.

This is why, whatever the situation, we cannot allow the rising crime indicators to provide an emotional excuse for panicky proposals to make punishment harsher and even, as some representatives of law enforcement organs openly urge, to reduce the requirements of proof of guilt.

Historical experience proves: Criminals are corrected not by the harshness but by the inevitability of punishment. The only thing harshness can produce is malice and recidivism in response. Jails and colonies have always been and remain to this day schools for the "exchange of experience" and an environment of human degradation. Furthermore, any reduction of requirements regarding the proof of a criminal action can only lead to arbitrariness, the sentencing of innocents, and judicial mistakes, whose consequences are at times as grave as those of serious crimes.

Of course, one can only welcome the open publication of full criminal statistics. This will boost the efficiency of scientific research. Crime data will offer sociologists an indication of deep-seated and basic social phenomena and processes. As far as jurists are concerned, crime statistics are the point of departure in their studies of the causes of crime and the elaboration of rational activity by the militia, prosecutor's offices, and courts.

*** Cooperatives Arm Themselves Against Racketeers**
18000692a Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
23 Mar 89 First Edition p 2

[Article by Georgiy Ovcharenko: "I Am Buying a Pistol"]

[Text] A cooperative member who was an acquaintance of mine suddenly stated:

"While you are discussing the new legislation, I am going to buy a pistol!"

Seeing my perplexity, he explained:

"The racketeers are a plague and the police does nothing to protect us."

That same evening I heard from a police chief:

"The devil knows what will happen, as the population is arming itself. They are making pistols and bombs right on the job. And do you know how they explain this: for self-defense. Do you think I am making this up?"

He is certainly not making this up. I recently attended sessions of the collegiums of the USSR Procurator's Office and the USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], and saw for myself that the crime curve in the nation last year climbed up sharply. It rose even more steeply in January. For this reason some want a weapon at hand. Only what does this lead to?

The answer to this question was provided by the USSR Deputy Procurator A. Katusov:

"As analysis has shown, one out of every ten murders in Krasnodar Kray and Moscow Oblast was committed with a firearm, one out of six in Krasnoyarsk Kray and Rostov Oblast and one out of four in the Chechen-Ingush ASSR. Over the 10 months of last year, armed criminals committed 93 armed robberies of cashiers and bank tellers and around 40 persons were killed and wounded."

These are the figures. Also over the year the number of murders increased by 14 percent, the number of robberies and assaults by more than 40 percent and thefts by one-third. And behind all of this lies the rise in criminal professionalism and organization and the rebirth of theft traditions. The criminal groupings now have their own strategy and tactics, they are capable of conspiracy, counterintelligence and security, and are organizing funds to bribe officials and to help "professional thieves" who have been released from incarceration. Often ending up in the same boat were underground millionaires and policemen, thieves and procurators, judges and speculators, party workers and "godfathers"....

I recalled the gloomy prophecy said a year previously by one of the investigators:

"If jurisprudence continues to behave this way, in 3 years even more blood will be shed."

Could this really come true?

But I also recall the words of a judge, a candidate of legal sciences:

"Let the investigators have their way! Many of them follow the principle that it is better to imprison ten innocent persons than let off one criminal. And with this, incidentally, began our tragedies of the 1930s."

It can no longer be concealed (glasnost does not permit this) that at present it does happen that innocent persons are put under investigation and held in prison. With the current "efficiency" of the appeals and supervisory levels, years can be spent on their release. A situation of the legal unprotectedness of citizens has risen and this plays precisely into the hands of those who would want to focus the dissatisfaction of persons against restructuring, democracy and glasnost. And here converge the interests of a bureaucracy in the worst understanding of this word and the "godfathers" of the Mafia....

Even 6 months ago, the situation seemed more or less good. In 1986-1987, there was a decline in the crime rate, particularly severe crimes. There were fewer violations of law and order caused by drunkenness and family-domestic conflicts. Then all of a sudden since January of last year, the situation began to change sharply.

But was this all of a sudden?

As is known, nature does not tolerate a vacuum. Crime, in adapting and mimicking, in any situation endeavors to find an opportunity for its existence. And if we, having commenced a renovation of our home, forget this, then crime will immediately take advantage.

Although it is to our shame, it must be recognized that the slogans of democracy, glasnost, increased social activeness and broadening human rights and freedoms can also be taken up by those who would turn democracy into permissiveness, glasnost into the right of applying labels, and social activeness into antisocialist activity, with rights and liberties channeled into one-way currents without any duties to society and the law. Let us call things by their names: some have been taken in. In some areas public opinion has moved toward the leftist groups close to anarchy.

This has been particularly reflected in the legal system. So very often it turns out, and not without aid from the press, that the humanization of jurisprudence ends up defending the rights not of the victims but rather the violators of the law. Strong pressure is applied to the police, procuracy and courts. It might be thought that not a single honest man or conscientious worker remained there. The police bodies have lost their way. In fearing to overdo the rod, they have begun to avoid it. The investigatory bodies are combating not the perpetrators of crimes but rather the victims, in not registering their complaints. The investigators have virtually closed their eyes to economic crimes (but isn't this socialist entrepreneurship?) and to bribery (hard to prove); the procurators have been reticent to issue warrants for arrest; the judges have lost their decisiveness, and instead of handing down sentences of guilty of innocent have begun to refer the cases for additional investigation.

I do not assert this without adducing any proof. At a coordinating conference for the leaders of the law enforcement bodies I learned these facts. Last year alone, from results of procuracy inspections, around 40,000 crimes were revealed, and these had been concealed from the account by the internal affairs bodies (and how many were undetected!?). In Dnepropetrovsk Oblast alone, in just 6 months the procurators had refused to issue warrants of arrest for 170 suspects, including those with previous records and under administrative supervision, as well as those previously hiding from investigation. Many of them, confident of their impunity, committed second crimes. Each year over 10,000 court rulings for returning criminal cases for further investigation are struck down as unjustified. Over last year, the number of discovered thefts of state and public property committed by appropriation, waste and abuse declined by 10 percent and in individual oblasts and republics by almost one-half. Many fewer bribery cases were exposed than before.

At the same time, research conducted by the Scientific Research Institute of the USSR Procurator's Office and the USSR MVD shows that precisely these types of crimes have become particularly widespread recently; organized crime and corruption have consolidated precisely here, and economic and general crime are merging. In 1986-1988 alone, 2,607 criminal groups were uncovered, and these showed indications of organization. They had committed around 20,000 crimes, including 218 murders and 285 assaults. Characteristically, around 50 groups were deeply underground and had been active 3 and more years. As the facts show, the Mafia at present is excellently equipped. Its arsenal includes not only diverse weapons but also high-powered vehicles, computers, listening devices and covert video recording....

How can the law enforcement bodies counter this?

"By enthusiasm," replied the chief of the Main Directorate of Criminal Investigation Under the USSR MVD, V. Pankin, without a shadow of irony. "The technical facilities lag many years behind the requirements of today, and the law enforcement bodies are divided by differing agency affiliation. Even within the system of the internal affairs bodies, the various services work for different indicators, although there should be just one: the prevention, detection and thwarting of crimes.

Here is one other opinion—more precisely advice—from the Investigator for Particularly Important Cases Under the RSFSR Procurator's Office, V. Myslovskiy:

"Take a look at the law, examine the draft of the Principles of Criminal Legislation," he proposed. "The investigators, for example, after we became acquainted with the document, threw up their hands." I took a good look. The first reading was promising, as the legislators had taken a step toward the state of law. Is it really bad, for example, that the law will be more lenient for persons who do not represent a great social danger, and that economic and other forms of punishment will become more widespread? Incidentally, it would be possible to recall and successfully employ such a measure as house arrest. In a word, the draft opens up the opportunity for hundreds of thousands of people to remain in the national economy, in families and in that environment which is capable of having a much more positive impact on them than the "society" in places of incarceration. This is particularly important for juvenile offenders. It is no secret that many of them return from the corrective labor colonies with a hardened criminal orientation acquired there and set out on the path of recidivism.

Whatever one says, the draft of the Principles is closely concerned with the fate of the violators of the law. This is a good sign. Certainly the state, to use the words of Marx, should see in the committing of a crime the living particle of the state, the citizen, exercising social functions and having the same rights as the other members of society. Even an awareness of this alone can return the straying person to obedience of the law.

Certainly here the rights and interests of the victim should not suffer in any way—that is, that basic mass of society which becomes the object of action of organized crime, robbers, thieves, speculators and swindlers. And this can be done only in one instance: if punishment is inexorable.

But precisely here in its main focus the draft Principles—and I feel the investigators, and not only they, are right—merit sharp criticism. Certainly it is a paradox; we know, we see, and we feel that organized crime has appeared in our country, but even the definition of what this is, how it is reflected in the socioeconomic life of the nation, and what danger it represents—this cannot be found even in the subtext of the draft Principles. And that is just the point. The leaders of the Mafia, those working out its tactics and strategy of long-range crimes, and who are never involved in illegal actions, again escape, as it turns out, from responsibility.

There is not a word about it; a humanization of legislation is essential. But for whom? For the criminals? In the draft there is not a word about the victims or about how they can quickly receive compensation for the material and moral losses. On the other hand it is proposed that the death penalty be eliminated for economic crimes which are particularly dangerous for the economy and society. And as many readers have pointed out, there is not even such an essential stipulation as lifting the exceptional measure of punishment after complete compensation to the state for the money which the court has proven was stolen. Only in this instance can one speak about repentance. And so the double-dyed bribe taker or swindler serves his stipulated time (or half of it), he retrieves his hidden loot, and continues to live well, to the envy of others. This is the best instance. In the worst, the stolen capital will become the basis for new crimes and corruption.

Today in the nation the cooperative movement is being restored, and society places great hopes on it. But even it is already being taken over by the Mafia. A racket is no longer a curiosity but rather a phenomenon, a strong current in organized crimes. It is extremely difficult for the police to combat it, as legislation has lagged behind the real today. In truth, lawyers can refer to articles which provide responsibility for blackmail and extortion. Incidentally, the punishments for these types of crime were recently stiffened. But the problem is that it is not the organizers who fall under these articles of the criminal code, but rather the young enforcers with sadistic inclinations. And for excellent remuneration they serve not 2 or 3 years but rather 5-10. They know that on getting out, they will not be without funds, as the "godfathers" will support them, they will be well clothed and fed, and things will be arranged. For this reason they act boldly, almost out in the open.

Or the following fact. Recently in a cooperative a citizen appeared with the identification of a police officer. Right off he demanded:

"Draw up a contract for me as a consultant at 300 rubles a month. Otherwise...."

The cooperative members understand what otherwise means. Many of them paid for refusing the "consultants" with the destruction of space, loss of commodities, injury, or even with their life. The fact with which I started this episode was put under police supervision. But the "officer" could scarcely be held criminally liable, as he had not done anything contrary to the law, merely offering his services. And even if problems await the cooperative from the strong-armed young men, is that the fault of the unsuccessful "consultant"?

There are two paths the cooperatives can follow: either to make a deal with the Mafia member, share income with them and pay over their money, or establish detachments of guards. They are following both paths, as for now they see no other way. Almost as a joke the chief of the GUVD [City Internal Affairs Administration] of the Moscow Gorispolkom, P. Bogdanov, related that representatives of large cooperatives had turned to him with a proposal to assign police officers to the cooperatives "for their use of their professional gear." Incidentally, the cooperatives pay their guards well, with 600 rubles, an additional 400 rubles if they use their private car, and

leave of 34 days. I write these figures and I myself wonder if the cooperatives will be rushed by policemen? Certainly, in defending ordinary workers, they have not only a much lower wage, waiting years for apartments, for places in nurseries, for creches and trips for recreation, but are even limited in the conscientious execution of official duties. I myself was witness when once to make a trip they had to siphon gasoline from three cars into one, as that was the limit in the rayon internal affairs section.

I write these comments not in order to intimidate. Only during these times of glasnost we should know the actual situation. This largely determines our awareness of the law which at present, under the conditions of democracy and glasnost, can really influence legislation and hence the defense of our legal rights and interests. In my view at present these are actually being most infringed upon by the existence of precisely organized crime, both in the economy, in the social sphere, and in everyday life, when, as in certain cities—for example in Kazan—people already fear going out on the street at night. Yes, ordinary hooliganism, unauthorized meetings and demonstrations, and petty unorganized thefts—all of this is also encouraged by the Mafia, for it diverts the forces of the law enforcement agencies from it.

"Crime flourishes where they do not combat it," I have been repeatedly told by people far removed from the concerns of the police. "We need fewer words and more action."

I agree. But let us take a look at the words of the new USSR Minister of Internal Affairs, V. Bakachin:

"Crime is a changeable thing. Due to social and economic conditions, it at one minute grows and then declines," said Vadim Viktorovich, "but the forces of the law enforcement agencies are, unfortunately, a fixed thing."

The bitter conclusion from these words comes automatically. The criminal world changes, it adapts to the real conditions and laws, and regroups its forces much more quickly than the law enforcement bodies. How much have we already said about the consolidation of the investigatory forces? But as before, they are scattered over three departments, and they do not know what awaits them in the future. And how much have we argued for the need of establishing a comprehensive program for combating organized crime and which, finally, would clearly define the tasks for today and for the long run, and would state who should do what, how and with what means? However, here we have not made any progress. This is true both in creating the physical facilities for combating the Mafia as well as in recognizing as court evidence the video and tape recordings obtained secretly (with this, incidentally, it would be difficult to put an end to the racketeers). But here everyone is cautious and marking time. But this is an instance when the marking of time is not merely two steps backward but a retreat.

Specialists are convinced that for effectively combating the Mafia and corruption it is essential to have effectiveness; there must be additional labor and material resources and effective changes in the legislation on urgent problems. Also indispensable are modern equipment, and organizational and structural changes in the legal system itself. Unfortunately, these questions are being settled extremely slowly and unevenly, and this makes the law enforcement bodies uncertain of their forces, and causes nervousness and mass turnover in the personnel.

Yes, a state of law is incompatible with lawlessness and the violating of the rights, interests, and freedoms of the citizens. But it is also incompatible with corruption and organized crime. For this reason, without claiming the last word, I would say that the democratization and humanization of legislation should be aimed primarily at defending honest people, the victims, not the criminals. Actually, this is the ultimate aim of combating crime, this is the sense of legality and democracy and the main moral principle of a state of law.

Four Women Stage Hunger Strike, Demand Church

PM0304120789 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 89 Morning Edition p 6

[Candidate of Historical Sciences V. Lebedev article: "Confrontation. Who Will Resolve the Extraordinary Situation Prevailing in Ivanovo City Center?"]

[Text] Even as I write these lines, four women believers are in the 7th day of a hunger strike in the city of Ivanovo, near the Church of the Presentation (the "red" church).

The question naturally arises: What caused this extraordinary situation? And also: What is being done to eliminate the cause of this unacceptable form of protest?

Virtually nothing, alas. With the possible exception of measures which, in the local authorities' opinion, ought to "damp down the situation." The hunger strikers were moved from the local movie theater to the "red" church and put out of sight behind the fence.

Who are these four? They are believers, members of the leadership organ of the newly registered orthodox community. They ask that the church building be handed over to them.

Maybe their request is illegal or impossible to grant? Let us look into the matter.

Ivanovo's central church—the Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin to the Temple or the Church of the Presentation, also known as the "red" church (in contrast with the Ilinskaya or "white" church)—was built during the years of the first Russian revolution. This is a fact: The revolutionary city did not build only barricades.

During the thirties, both churches were "expropriated" and both were used to house archives. The archives are still housed there. Furthermore, the document storage conditions in these "depositories" are simply ruinous.

During the sixties, Ivanovo embarked on the construction of a special building for the oblast archives, but it remains unfinished to this day. Moreover, believers complain that finishing work on the archive building under construction was suspended as soon as they raised the question of returning the church to them.

Nonetheless, the archives are being prepared to be moved. But what will happen to the church building due to be vacated? It was proposed first to fit it out as an organ concert hall, then as a folklore center....

Ivanovo with its 500,000 residents now has only one functional church. Believers have repeatedly applied to the authorities for a new, second orthodox community to be registered. They spent a long time running around oblast offices. The community was registered only after intervention by the USSR Council of Ministers Religious Affairs Council.

Moscow also backed the proposal that the church be handed back to the believers once the archive was moved out. For their part, the believers declared their consent to donate their personal labor to help commission the new archive building. But the reply was once more "No!" O. Khasbulatova, secretary of the oblast party committee [obkom], with whom I discussed this question—already very acute at the time—2 months ago, holds that the city archive will be commissioned without any help from the believers.

Meanwhile, a third orthodox community has filed an application for registration in Ivanovo, asking in the process for the "white" Ilinskaya church. Once again the local authorities refused. Once again help and understanding were forthcoming only from Moscow. The third community was registered. But the city still has only one church, just as before.

Bishop Amvrosiy of Ivanovo and Kineshma, who governs the diocese, told me:

"I don't know how, but a great chasm has opened between believers and nonbelievers, between churchgoers and non-churchgoers. And what is the point? After all, our motherland will be monolithic and strong only when our society is united...."

I leaf through the stacks of paper—appeals, letters, complaints, petitions, and demands by believers that everything be resolved according to law and justice. If you've registered a community—give it a church. Otherwise the registration itself is nothing but fiction.

I talked to these believers last summer. I visited them again at the end of January to look into the prevailing situation. I met many senior officials. When I asked her how the fire should be extinguished, Obkom Secretary O. Khasbulatova gave a brief answer:

"They are overexcited. And not because they have been badly treated. Because they suddenly got themselves into that kind of mood. Very aggressive...."

In this context, I would like to remind readers of a remarkable fact. The first issue of IZVESTIYA TSK KPSS published documents raising the question of the possibility of setting up a club in an orthodox church. Here is how V.I. Lenin responded to the believers' letter: "Is it proper, even in special conditions, to turn a church into a club?" And he went on: "Would it not be better to reconsider and restore the church?"

Now, even as the newspaper is being signed to print, the hunger strike is in its 8th day. The selfsame poster is still outside the church: "We won't drink, we won't eat until we are given a church...."

Why has a question which could have been resolved earlier in an atmosphere of calmness become so acute now? Why are the old methods of treating believers and their needs still upheld here to this day?

FROM THE EDITORIAL OFFICE. We deem it necessary to repeat: The method of protest selected by the hunger strikers is absolutely unacceptable. (One would have thought that a spiritual shepherd would have been capable of persuading believers to rely on the law rather than on "hungry protection" of their rights.) It is alarming that attempts to apply similar "methods" of strongarm pressure have recently become increasingly frequent—and not just in Ivanovo.

Nonetheless. It is also perfectly obvious that the exacerbation of the situation is largely due to the Ivanovo leaders' unwillingness to embark on a sensible compromise, and ultimately to their scorn for citizens' legitimate demands. And here is the outcome....

One thing is clear: Sensible and firm measures are now necessary in order to normalize the situation.

Strikers Hospitalized

LD0304104189 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0900 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Ivanovo (Central Russia), 3 Apr (TASS)—TASS correspondent Anatoliy Frankovskiy reports:

A hunger strike by four believers demanding that the city authorities hand over to them the former Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin has been going on for 2 weeks here. Now they have been hospitalized and are

continuing their hunger strike under the observation of qualified doctors. According to specialists' assessments their condition is satisfactory.

The Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin was built in the early 20th century. In the late thirties, state archives were accommodated in the church which had been closed down by then.

Four months ago, when the second community of Orthodox Christians were registered in the city, its members raised the issue of returning the Church of the Presentation to them. They presumed that once the construction of a purpose-built building for the archives was completed, all archive services would transfer to the new premises. But in the city council other plans were being born. First the idea to install an organ concert hall in the former church was proposed, then they suggested a folklore center.

The believers received a refusal from the local authorities. Then they sent a complaint to the Council for Religious Affairs of the USSR Council of Ministers, which monitors the observance of the law in mutual relations between the church and state institutions. The council proposed that the local authority bodies "resolve the issue of a house of prayer, taking the Church of the Presentation into consideration." But Ivanovo did not agree with the decision of the Council for Religious Affairs.

"This totally exhausted our patience," I was told by Larisa Kholina, chairman of the church community and a stomatologist. The four women declared a hunger strike. As Kholina put it, at first all they wanted to do was draw the public's attention to the conflict. But now they are demanding that the Church of the Presentation be handed over to believers immediately.

"Of course, only people driven to desperation would take such a step," Amvrosiy, bishop of Ivanovo and Kineshma, head of the eparchy, said, commenting on the actions of the believers. "The people have been overwhelmed by emotion." The bishop believes that this problem "must be discussed in a spirit of benevolence and mutual understanding." After all, religious community spokesmen and the oblast soviet of people's deputies succeeded recently in resolving the issue of whether to let believers have churches in the towns of Komsomolsk and Furmanov.

The city, with its population of 500,000, is in turmoil over the four women's hunger strike. The inhabitants are going on marches and demonstrations: Some support the actions of the believers, while others are just as resolutely behind the city authorities. There is a third section of the populance—possibly the largest—that, while condemning the hunger strike as a means of exerting undue pressure, nevertheless advocates a rational solution within the constraints of Soviet law to (?this) conflict—one that would provide for the broad participation of all sections of the community.

Readers' Queries on Visa Applications Answered

PM0404090389 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Mar 89 Second Edition p 3

[A. Gavrilov reply to readers' questions under "Reader's Question" rubric: "More on Exit Visas"; first four paragraphs are readers' letters]

[Text] Are people of Jewish nationality able to leave the USSR for any other country?

[Signed] I. Zyk, Minsk

Is there a time limit within which the Visas and Registration Department must examine and reply to a person's application to go abroad at someone else's invitation?

[Signed] A. Likin, Moscow

As the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs Visas and Registration Department has confirmed, when someone applies for permission to travel from the USSR on private business or for permanent residence his nationality is of no significance.

Other factors are taken into account—for instance, whether there is an invitation from that person's relatives or friends if the trip is for private business, or from immediate relatives if the purpose of the trip is permanent residence. Account is also taken of the extent of the applicant's knowledge of state secrets. These questions are regulated in detail by provisions which entered force in January 1987.

Paragraph 28 of those provisions also stipulates the time limit within which internal affairs organs are required to examine citizens' applications.

If the applicant's journey is for a private trip his application must be examined within 1 month. If he wants to leave to take up permanent residence abroad the application must be answered within 6 months at most.

But it must be admitted that these time limits are not always observed. In summer, when the number of applicants rises sharply, Visas and Registration Department organs, which suffer from staff shortages, are sometimes late in completing the passport. It also happens that the applicant's documents are not always in order, which leads to unforeseen delays.

Economic

Aganbegyan Discusses Convertible Ruble

LD0304153489 Moscow TASS in English 1511 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—A convertible ruble, without which the USSR cannot become a full-fledged participant in world economy, will probably become a reality in 7 to 10 years. This is the opinion of Soviet

economist, Academician Abel Aganbegyan. He spoke at a meeting with newsmen here today, devoted to problems of East-West economic security.

The academician said that two approaches have evolved toward solving the problem of making the ruble convertible. The first provides for a prior strengthening of the ruble's purchasing power in the domestic market. "This presupposes both saturating the internal market in capital goods, ensuring a free circulation of bonds and securities, and the creation of an internal currency market", Aganbegyan said. "Alongside with this, there will be a more effective utilization of foreign economic relations, including the USSR'S active participation in the international currency and credits mechanism. Introduction of the convertible ruble proper is possible only after this."

The second road lies through introduction in the near future of a second currency—a special Soviet ruble for foreign economic activity. This ruble must be backed up by the USSR'S export potential and by its currency and gold reserves. This ruble could be used, for instance, within the boundaries of special economic zones now being set up in Soviet territory. Abel Aganbegyan reminded his audience that such a special currency—the "gold chervonets" (ten rubles)—did exist in the USSR until 1925. "Of course, the existence of two currencies in the USSR will be temporary," he said. "Following the creation of the necessary domestic conditions, the intention is to introduce a single convertible ruble."

Disadvantages of Distribution Economy Viewed

PM3003140989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 89 Morning Edition p 1

[M. Berger article: "The Distribution Roller. What Sort of Trade Is Coupon Trade?"]

[Text] The distribution roller is overwhelming us. By now we are long accustomed to coupons for some foodstuffs. The system whereby people can order things through the enterprises and organizations where they work is expanding and spreading, offering a certain convenience but essentially remaining a facet of distribution rather than a trade service. Local trade union organizations are displaying growing activeness in organizing trade fairs for industrial products in their collectives.

The distribution wave, which is swamping an increasingly broad strata, is especially dangerous because it is more often than not perceived as a benefit, as a social gain. We do not even notice how growing quantities of goods are switching from normal sale to distribution by coupons, orders from where you work, and invitations to trade fairs. The strengthening organizational basis of this process calls for great vigilance. By virtue of official decisions, enterprises and organizations are assigned to stores, and sales are subjected to certain regulations in terms of time off for shopping, the volume of goods assigned to various enterprises.... For all intents and purposes, a network of semi-exclusive distribution, with its own rules and circulating capital, is being set up in parallel with the trade network.

The illusion of "order" and "fair distribution" thus created prevents people from stopping to think: What is actually happening? What is actually happening is that a coupon-invitation bearing a trade union seal is at times worth much more than bank notes of even the most impressive denomination. The trade network as an institution is declining and disintegrating, slowly but surely yielding its positions to the distribution system. This cannot have anything in common with the development of commodity-money relations or the market.

Why is it that we are so eagerly and enthusiastically pulling toward a "consumer barracks," where everything is issued according to norms and set schedules? This is obviously the only system suitable for the Army, but in civilian life? How, for example, are we to encourage efficient and good labor in the production of those selfsame goods if earning money is not enough and people's earnings have to be supplemented by coupons issued either by a throw of the dice or by the luck of the draw? It is pointless to strive and it is safe to be lazy. How, when replacing money by coupons, are we to avoid switching from "no-money" to..."no-goods" distribution?

Of course we have shortages, deficiencies, and waiting lines—we have them all. The distribution system boasts serious motivations and apparently good intentions. But just stop and think of the dangers lying in wait along this path!

Promises about "better distribution" were a prominent topic in the recently concluded election campaign. One candidate USSR people's deputy, for example, included in his overall fairly interesting election program a special section entitled "Optimization of Distribution." Its essence boils down to this. While Muscovites are working, people come in from out of town and buy up all the goods. It is useless to increase the influx of goods because this would only increase the number of outsiders coming in. By way of an admittedly temporary measure (to remain in effect for a few years!) it is proposed to significantly expand the goods and services distribution system and to issue Muscovites with coupons for goods in great demand (and what sort of demand is there today, if not a great one?). Because success in solving Moscow's production problem is lacking, the candidate concludes, voters themselves are entitled to solve the distribution problem.

There you have it: Let us "sit" on whatever we've got and distribute it among ourselves, keeping "outsiders" away. But by virtue of what right should voters living within the city limits enjoy greater rights than out-of-town voters?

No, it only appears that distribution can be "optimized." Any distribution regardless of the quantity and quality of the labor given to society is unfair to those among whom things are to be distributed, and especially to those who will be cut off from the distribution system—and there certainly will be such people. No matter what a candidate or a deputy promises, collective orders placed by a ministry or a large plant will always offer richer pickings than those placed by housing operation offices or schools, even in his own electoral okrug. This is totally unavoidable and, if we are to call a spade a spade, the rich pickings offered by frequent collective orders and trade fairs at major enterprises and influential organizations are something akin to bribery or, to put it mildly, a way to "cajole" those whose dissatisfaction could prove especially troublesome.

Coupon distribution will inevitably increase the number of abuses, which are already plentiful in the trade network. Judge for yourselves: Formerly any goods in short supply were siphoned off by the store manager to his friends and acquaintances, but now we will also have those who deal with organizing trade fairs and sales within their own organizations and enterprises (and some people in major plants have made this part-time job almost their main occupation). And each of them has his own friends and acquaintances. Of course, the majority of collective order and sale organizers are honest people, but nonetheless.... Any commodity, as trade network workers themselves have aptly put it, is like a block of ice—the more hands that handle it, the less is left of it.

The distribution system does not only ruin normal economic ties, it also divides people along "distribution lines." Nowadays, people traveling to certain regions can no longer exercise in full their rights as purchasers, even though there seem to be no customs barriers inside the country. Any further movement in this direction could lead to "customs wars" between cities and rayons, people may be chucked out of buses because they are traveling a route not within their residence zone, and much else besides could be attributed to shortages of goods or seats on public transport.... Is this not too high a price to pay for "optimization of distribution?" Would it not be better to aim for proper commodity-money relations which would encourage people to produce and exchange goods rather than wasting efforts on protecting their "special" purchasing rights?

The experience of mankind's development shows that commodity exchange on the basis of a universal means of exchange—money—is the best way to mutual understanding and union. So let us develop and improve market relations rather than coupon distribution, because we might find ourselves in a situation where there will no longer be anything to distribute but coupons.

Scientific

Public Fears Over Nuclear Test Site Addressed

PM0304132189 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Apr 89 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed feature comprising reader's letter; interview with Lieutenant General S.A. Zelentsov, deputy chief of a USSR Ministry of Defense Main Directorate, by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lieutenant Colonel O. Falichev; and unattributed interview with Academician L. Buldakov of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, deputy chairman of the National Commission for Radiation Protection, and V. Petrov, doctor of technical sciences, from the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology Applied Geophysics Institute: "Semipalatinsk Milliroentgens. Competent Opinion on the Ecological Situation Near the Nuclear Test Site"—place and date of interviews not given; first two paragraphs are a reader's letter]

[Text] Dear editorial office. I have lived in Kazakhstan all my life. I know that a nuclear test site exists in the Semipalatinsk region on the republic's territory. It is said that these explosions influence the environment and affect people's health. Is this really so?

[Signed] M. Dubolazova, Uzunagach Village, Kaskelenskiy Rayon, Alma-Ata Oblast

Our correspondent Lieutenant Colonel O. Falichev brought this letter to the notice of Lieutenant General S. Zelentsov, deputy chief of a USSR Ministry of Defense Main Directorate.

Here is what he replied:

[Zelentsov] We also receive similar letters. Last year for example, following alerts from Pavlodar and Ust-Kamenogorsk, a commission was set up comprising representatives of the USSR Ministry of Health, the State Committee for Hydrometeorology, the State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, the USSR Academy of Sciences, and other departments. The commission determined that radiation levels near the test site and the cities in question did not exceed background levels, amounting to 0.012-0.02 milliroentgens per hour. This was reported to the USSR Council of Ministers. Similar measurements were taken in Semipalatinsk last February. Once again, no deviations from the norm were detected....

[Falichev] Does this mean that people's fears are groundless?

[Zelentsov] As a rule, nuclear charges are placed in a pit at least 600 meters deep. No soil is extracted following the blast. All products of radioactive decay remain underground....

Radioactive rare gases may rise to the surface some time later, but they decay in the atmosphere without leaving any traces on the ground. Therefore they pose no danger to the population outside the test site perimeter.

Unfortunately, the lack of the necessary relevant information can give rise to sundry rumors, conjectures, and assumptions. The following example is indicative, in my opinion. Attempts were made not so long ago to blame the test site for damage to a section of the water supply network in the city of Rubtsovsk. It was claimed that this was due to earth tremors during nuclear tests. An inspection had to be carried out once again and it specifically showed that the accident to the water supply network was due to mismanagement and negligence by the relevant services. Regarding the test site, the strength of tremors during tests is insignificant. It is comparable to the tremor experienced by a railway station building when a train goes through.

[Falichev] Nonetheless, Sergey Aleksandrovich, whether we like it or not, any commission will protect the interests of the department from which it takes its instructions. Have members of the public visited the test site? As, for example, representatives of the "Nevada" Society, who advocate a nuclear test ban?

[Zelentsov] We treat these movements with respect. After all, their goal is noble. We are in contact with them, trying to persuade them via the language of facts and figures. For example, following the "declassification" of the test site near Semipalatinsk, it has been visited on several occasions by representatives of television, the press, and various public organizations. A group headed by Olzhas Suleymenov, first secretary of the Kazakh Writers Union Board and head of the "Nevada" Movement, went there 22 March. They were given an opportunity to visit the site where the last nuclear test was conducted. They visited test site sections which were of interest, took spot checks of radiation readings which proved to be within background levels, and had meetings with the population. The public's opinion of the test site and its adjoining areas changed for the better.

[Falichev] Could you specify the background radiation level typical of the test site?

[Zelentsov] The average background radiation in the test site area is 0.015-0.017 milliroentgens per hour. What sort of magnitude is this? For example, the background level in the center of Moscow is 0.012 milliroentgens per hour. In other words, near enough to the aforementioned magnitudes. Compared with the Nevada test site in the United States, the figure there stands at 0.060 milliroentgens per hour, 3-4 times higher than in our country.

The replies obtained during the interview with Lt Gen Zelentsov seemed convincing enough. Nonetheless, they are replies by a representative of an interested department. What would scientists have to say? The following questions were answered by Academician L. Buldakov of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, deputy chairman of the National Commission for Radiation Protection, and Doctor of Technical Sciences V. Petrov from the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology Applied Geophysics Institute.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Background radiation in the nuclear test site area is no higher than the norm. What is the annual irradiation dose permissible for man?

L. Buldakov: The natural annual dose each one of us receives is 0.2-0.5 roentgens. It is higher with smoking, frequent and "close" contacts with television sets and computers, and so on. The maximum permissible annual dose which produces no effects at all in an adult could be as high as 5 roentgens. This dose has been deemed safe also by international commissions.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] But there are people who have doubts about arguments cited in the press and conclusions by officials. Can they do anything about it?

L. Buldakov: Such people could apply to their oblast sanitary and epidemiology station, which must take appropriate readings in the indicated site at their request.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Would it not be simpler to organize the production of personal dosimeters? This problem does not exist in many countries....

L. Buldakov: You are right in raising this matter: Everyone must have an opportunity to take his own dose readings. I know that the USSR Ministry of Health National Radiation Commission has elaborated a concept on individual dosimetry. Instructions have been given to the relevant ministries, and especially the Ministry of Medium Machine Building, for their production. Regarding the time when individual dosimeters will be available for sale, as far as I know one Leningrad plant has promised to manufacture several thousand instruments by next year.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] The editorial office mailbag also contains letters associating weather conditions and even the earth's seismic activeness with nuclear tests. What could be said in this context?

V. Petrov: First about the weather. Virtually nothing, apart from inert gases, emerges on the earth's surface during underground explosions. Therefore there are no reasons to talk about ensuing climatic changes. Meteorologists use the expression "synoptical period" to describe a period without any noticeable weather changes. This period, according to long-term observations, does not change under the influence of tests. The test site meteorology bureau regularly measures diverse "weather" parameters. It has not detected any anomalies, either.

As for seismic effects, a lot depends on the ground structure adjoining the test site. It was already said that the energy produced by a nuclear explosion is not large enough for this and can neither accelerate nor retard processes occurring within the earth's crust.